



Councillor calls for more people to use historic site

£1.5m BID TO REVAMP PARK

Report by Jamie Brassington

A SENIOR councillor is calling on more people to visit and enjoy a Dudley park where a £1.5 million revamp is in the pipeline.

Planning boss councillor Ian Kettle said he would be delighted if a bid for the extra cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund were to be successful at Stevens Park in Quarry Bank.

A group made up of the Friends of Stevens Park and Dudley Council have already received around £100,000 this year for stage one of the project. Now they are gearing up to submit a bid for the further funding, which would pay for a new community hub and cafe to be built at the park on Thorns Road, near Merry Hill shopping centre.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I would be delighted if the bid was to be successful. I would encourage anyone to make use of the park."

Proposals for the project include the renovation of Tintern House, a historical former farmhouse in the park, for use as a community facility.

Difference

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward councillor David Sparks, who is chairman of the park friends group, said: "We are hoping that the bid will ultimately be successful because it would make a massive difference to the further regeneration to an historic Black Country park."

Councillor Sparks said the friends, working in partnership with Dudley Council and an unnamed third party, received £100,000 to fund stage one of the project, which will help with submitting the £1.5m bid. The project also aims to illustrate Quarry Bank history at the park, which also includes Quarry Bank War Memorial and sports facilities.

BEANZ MEANZ BATH TIME FOR FUNDRAISER LOUIS



Louis Johnson in the middle of his bath of beans, which helped to raise £197 for the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge

BRITISH Citizen Youth Award winner Louis Johnson made a meal of his latest fundraiser.

The 11-year-old spent 90 minutes sitting in a bath full of beans and collected £197 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

The challenge took place during the hospice's family fun day in Oldswinford on Saturday.

It took the contents of 150 tins to fill the

bath and Waitrose provided 100 of these free of charge with the remainder being donated by other well wishers.

Louis had no trouble sitting there for longer than the three members of Fizzogs, the dancing grannies, who also took part in the event.

His proud mother Teresa, aged 44, speaking at their Tettenhall Wood home: "He only got out when he did because he wanted to help

raise money for Cure Leukaemia and Wolves goalkeeper Carl Ikeme, who is currently being treated for the disease."

Louis, named Young Star of the Year at last year's Express & Star Great Big Thank You awards, became the first person in the West Midlands to receive the recently introduced British Citizen Youth Award last October in recognition of his fundraising.

GAMBLING

£12m casino gets licence approvals

A £12 million casino is odds-on for Dudley's Castlegate Park after it secured vital gambling and drinks licences.

Castle Casino, on Castle Hill, aims to relocate to a modern new building at the nearby leisure park and relaunch as Casino 36.

The casino, which will be on a separate floor to a bingo hall at the premises, has also obtained a 24-hour gambling licence.

Casino 36, the company which also runs a casino in Wolverhampton, is investing more than £12 million to deliver a second site in Dudley, creating up to 100 jobs.

COURT

Man charged with hospital bomb hoax

A MAN has been charged with making a bomb hoax which forced Russells Hall Hospital into a state of lockdown.

Unemployed Norman Taylor, 43, of Spiral Close, Halesowen, appeared before magistrates in Dudley on Monday charged with making a bomb hoax, following the incident on Saturday. He did not enter a plea and was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 2.

RAID

Suspects in court over shop robbery

THREE men have appeared before magistrates on suspicion of involvement in an armed robbery at the One Stop Shop in Worcester Street, Stourbridge, on Friday.

Carl Cina, 50, from Stourbridge Road, Stuart Dublin, 35, from Blowers Road, and Delroy Nettleford, 53, from Stourbridge Road, were all remanded to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 2.

INSIDE

DIANA HAS NEW ROLE AS DUSTY



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Police arrest key suspect in Brierley Hill murder

A MURDER suspect wanted by police over the death of a father in a Brierley Hill street has been arrested in Birmingham after a nationwide hunt.

Niron Parker-Lee's arrest follows a 10-month manhunt, which featured an appeal on BBC Crimewatch and the offer of a £6,000 reward.

The 19-year-old was wanted in connection with the death of Mansoor Mahmood, who was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill High Street last October.

On Thursday night, Parker-Lee was arrested at an address in Northfield. He appeared before magistrates in Birmingham on Saturday and was charged with murder. He is being held in custody due to appear at Birmingham Crown Court this week.

Mr Mahmood, a 24-year-old factory worker, was knifed in the chest on October 15. He staggered into the Dixi Chicken takeaway, where staff called for an ambulance that took him to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

But he died a short time later, leaving behind his wife Aisha and two children, Isa and Awaiz.

The search for Parker-Lee was stepped up in June with the reward for information increased from £2,000 to £6,000.

The tripling in reward was thanks to Crimestoppers and money raised by the family.

Ferocious comic in town hall show

COMIC Ian Cognito will be bringing his controversial brand of stand-up Stourbridge tonight (Thursday).

The comedian, who has been called the pitbull of comedy due to his ferocious reputation, will perform at the monthly Kum-n-avaloff Comedy Night on its return to Stourbridge Town Hall at 8pm.

Cognito has been compared to Lenny Bruce and Bill Hicks but has never crossed over to TV, in part at least due to his hard-hitting approach.

He will be joined at the town hall's Wollaston Studio by up-and-coming stand-up Morgan Rees, Pat Gallagher and MC Aaron Twitchen. Tickets, including curry and rice during the interval, cost £8. See www.boroughhalls.co.uk/kum-n-avaloff.html

Zoo fundraiser

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo helped to raise more than £500 during International Orangutan Day, when keepers manned an information stand at the Castle Hill attraction to raise awareness about threats faced in the wild.

New bosses plan to give market a boost



Dudley Market has been relaunched

THE new bosses of Dudley Market have vowed to restore it to its former glory by bringing in more stallholders and stage events to attract shoppers back.

The site was taken over by Tudor Markets in July and was officially reopened on Saturday.

Bosses say that plans are already in place for Christmas with all 72 stalls aiming to be filled and the addition of a new Asian market.

Natalie Mashhadi-Marshall, business developer for Tudor Markets, said: "We felt that maybe there had

been some neglect and that the town centre had lost a bit of life, so now we want to bring it back.

"We want the market to be the way it used to be and get people away from Merry Hill and Birmingham and to choose Dudley instead.

"Since we have taken it over in July, we have had four previous traders come back to us and 48 stalls are now filled. There are 72 in total so we want to continue to attract traders to come to fill those. I am helping promote traders on social media too.

She continued: "We are planning

some great events for Christmas, a Santa's grotto and the return of a Christmas tree.

"There has been an Asian market on a Wednesday for the last few weeks and that has been our busiest day. It's been fantastic and we want to continue to grow in that way."

Dudley Council strategic director Alan Lunt said: "Dudley Market is at the heart of Dudley town centre, which is why it was essential that we picked the strongest team to build on the work and investment delivered by Dudley Council."

Spy car to tackle illegal parking outside schools

A 'SPY car' will patrol Dudley targeting drivers and recording evidence about poor parking near schools.

The vehicle will be out with the start of the new school term in a bid to keep children safe.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, explained: "Illegal parking outside schools puts the lives of children at risk."

The car, which was tested outside some schools in June and July, aims to catch motorists parking on yellow zigzag lines and they could be handed a £70 fine.

The project is costing £60,000 to set up and aims to be self-financing, meaning the cost of running the scheme will be funded by the income generated from fines.

The car-mounted camera will only start rolling when a car has driven over the zigzag lines, thanks to smart technology which detects the road markings. Council officers will sift through the video and anyone captured parking illegally will be sent penalty notices.

Punish

Government policy means the council can only use the CCTV to capture certain traffic offences, such as illegally parking on yellow zigzags and red routes or travelling in bus lanes. The scheme will not be able to punish motorists for illegally parking on double yellow lines, or on white zigzags next to zebra or pelican crossings.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The yellow zigzag lines are there for a reason - to ensure visibility so children can see and be seen clearly when they cross the road on their way to and from school. We take this extremely seriously."

"People who flout the law and ignore the zigzags will be fined. The new CCTV equipped car should help us catch those who are endangering children. The vehicle will be patrolling school sites on most days and I am sure it will be welcomed by the majority of law-abiding residents, who will be as frustrated as we are at illegal parking."

Out of this world but under the M5



Dudley amateur photographer Phil Ward's intriguing image of work on the Oldbury Viaduct on the M5

IT takes a little while for your eyes to adjust to this photograph, its strange appearance makes it look like the storage bay on a spaceship. But far from being extra-terrestrial, this was taken underneath the Oldbury Viaduct between junctions 1 and 2 of the M5.

The photograph was taken by

Phil Wild, a 64-year-old amateur photographer from Lower Gornal.

Mr Wild uses a Canon EOS 650 camera and 70-200mm lens. His inspiration for the photograph was that he wanted to show the work at the viaduct, the subject of considerable concrete repair work which has led to delays on

the busy route through the Black Country.

Mr Wild used favourable light and the reflection on the canal to capture this stunning image.

He said: "One of my favourite elements was the line of the canal leading you to the centre of the photograph."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy admits having machete at school

A TEENAGER has confessed to arming himself with a machete before going to school in Dudley.

The 13-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted possessing an offensive weapon on school premises in July.

He also confessed to having a large knife with him while in Price Street, in the Kates Hill area of Dudley, around a month after the school incident, Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court heard.

The youth is due to appear again at the same court for sentence on Wednesday, September 20.

Trust is looking at health links

THE relationship between physical and mental health will be discussed by experts as part of an annual meeting of the joint Dudley and Walsall's Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

The trust is inviting the public to the meeting on Friday, September 22, at The New Art Gallery in Walsall. The meeting is from 10am to 2.30pm.

A forum titled 'Healthy Mind, Healthy You' will look at the relationship between physical and mental health as well as workshops and therapies available to the public. For more details call (01384) 325015.

New classroom sought for school

A SCHOOL in Dudley has submitted plans for a new early years classroom.

Bosses at Jessons CE Primary School on School Street, Dudley, say the extension will provide much-needed teaching space. The early years department caters for children up to the age of five.

The new teaching area will also be used for childcare before and after the school day.

An application for planning consent for the development has been lodged with officers at Dudley Council for consideration soon.

Man, 50, has denied taking drugs to prison

A MAN from the Black Country has pleaded not guilty to taking drugs into a prison.

Carl Cina, aged 50, of Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, pleaded not guilty to one charge of possession of a class A drug with intent to supply and one charge of bringing a class A prohibited item into Featherstone prison on March 16.

He will appear at Stafford Crown Court for trial on November 2.

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Easy quiz aimed at terrible teams

A PUB in Brierley Hill is holding the UK's 'easiest pub quiz' for people put off quizzes by beer quaffing boffins. The Corn Exchange Flaming Grill, on Amblecote Road, will be offering £750 to the winner.

General manager Beverley Morton said: "Everyone loves a pub quiz, but not everyone's general knowledge is up to scratch. We're offering these terrible teams the chance to redeem themselves."

Five teams will compete in the event and organisers are asking people to apply to take part ahead of the event on October 5. To enter, visit www.flaminggrillpubs.com/wwtg

Feeling the heat at chilli festival

THE Birmingham Chilli Festival is back, at Brindleyplace on Saturday, September 16. There will be the annual chilli themed market along with nerve-wracking challenges, physical activities and of course, plenty of spice.

This year, the festival will be raising the stakes with a 100ft forward-facing abseil from number 4 Brindleyplace to raise funds for one of their 2017 charity partners, Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

The festival will take place between 11am and 7pm in Central Square. To find out more visit www.brindleyplace.com website.

Warning to dog owners on car trip

MORE than half of dog owners in the West Midlands could be breaking the law while driving with their pet.

A total of 53 per cent of dog owners in the region are unaware their pet should be restrained in the vehicle.

The figures have been released as part of a campaign by the Dogs Trust called The Houndway Code. The results show that 44 per cent of owners do not restrain their dogs with a harness and a quarter admitted to finding them a distraction.

Discover the history of landmark church

FREE tours are being offered at a landmark church in Dudley on Saturday afternoon.

The tours will be held at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, also known as Top Church, at 1.30pm and again at 2.30pm and will last around half an hour. Visitors will be able to find out about the origins of the church and enjoy refreshments.

'Low life' thieves stealing from graves

CALLS have been made for security at Gornal Wood Crematorium because 'low-life' thieves have been stealing from graves.

The graves on land off Chase Road have been the subject of thefts of ornaments, vases, lights and other tributes left by relatives.

Dudley Council bosses say they are now looking at stepping up security in a bid to put a stop to the problem.

Councillor Ian Kettle, who is responsible for bereavement services in Dudley, said: "We have had a number of reports of thefts from graves at Gornal Wood Crematorium over the past few weeks.

Police

"We are in close communication with the police, and we are currently looking at our options with regards

to increasing security at the site. We have also spoken to staff and stressed the need to remain extra vigilant.

"Such thefts cause great upset to people visiting their loved ones, and we would urge anyone with information to call the police."

John and Margaret Dacre are among families upset after items left at graves were stolen. Solar 'guardian angel' lights have been taken from the

grave of their son John on three separate occasions.

John, a machinist from Dudley and died aged 55 in 2012. Mrs Dacre, aged 80, from Bilston, said: "I find it hard to understand why they did it. There is no value there. It upsets me. I get upset if I even speak John's name." Her husband John said: "It was a bit of a shock. People who steal from graves are low life."

Councillor in plea for action on danger road

By Clare Butler

URGENT safety measures are needed on a notorious route ahead of the opening of a new community centre, says a Dudley councillor.

Ward councillor Ken Finch insists action is needed on Priory Road in Dudley, where two people have died in the last year.

A new community centre is set to open within weeks opposite Aldi at the busy junction with Birmingham New Road, sparking fears more traffic and pedestrians could put safety at risk.

Councillor Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward, said that the road was getting 'more and more dangerous by the day'.

Speed-calming measures were called for earlier this year, but still nothing has been done.

Now a speed limit enforcement is being asked for because of the community centre opening.

"It is impossible to cross the road at peak times," said Councillor Finch. "We need to remember that there will be more traffic turning into the road and heading towards the community centre when it opens."

Trees

"It is getting more and more dangerous by the day. We need the trees pruned for more street light and we should put a speed limit in place and properly enforce it. We need highway bosses to come up with some ideas, and quickly."

"It seems that the road has just been left alone now but this is a problem that will not go away."

"Every week when we have our community surgeries we are asked by residents 'what are you doing about the road? We are in fear of another tragic accident.'"

Genie-us opportunity for talented Mia



Mia Richards will play Princess Jasmine in panto at Suffolk resort Lowestoft

AN actress who went to school in Lower Gornal is getting ready to hop onto a magic carpet after securing her first professional role in the pantomime Aladdin.

Mia Richards will appear alongside a cast including former Conservative MP Ann Widdecombe and singer Mark Read from boyband A1 for the show's 32-performance run at Marina Theatre in Lowestoft on the Suffolk coast this December.

She says she is 'over the moon' to be playing Princess Jasmine. The 20-year-old, who has just completed her first year at Performance Preparation Academy (PPA) in Guildford, is no stranger to the amateur stage.

She started her musical theatre journey in productions such as Phantom of the Opera, Sweeney Todd and Les Miserables at El-lowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal.

After leaving school she went on to audition and study for a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts at Birmingham Ormiston Academy, which saw her perform in shows such as Little Women and Spring Awakening.

Mia has also appeared on stage with West End stars Bonnie Langford and Samantha Spiro for an evening to celebrate the work of composer Stephen

Victim has kept knife threat man out of jail

A WOMAN, whose partner held a knife to her throat, has saved him from a jail sentence.

Lisa Shan asked for Steven Timmins to be freed when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court via a video link from prison.

The couple had enjoyed a settled relationship for more than 20 years until he lost his job, said Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting, who added: "He started to take drugs and his personality changed."

On July 4, Miss Shan returned home from work to find her 36-year-old partner sitting on the back step.

Timmins flew into a rage after Miss Shan told him to go back to his father's home because they could no longer live as they were. Timmins grabbed the her round the neck and started to 'strangle' her, before dragging her across the kitchen so he could reach a knife. The defendant pressed the blade to her throat and warned that he would kill her, the court heard.

Terrified

She was terrified but told him she loved him and managed to calm him down. Mr Walters said: "She genuinely thought that he was going to kill her and that he could have done so if she had not talked him down."

Timmins was arrested when police were alerted and had been in custody since then.

Miss Shan told the court: "I am prepared to give him another chance. He needs help for this drug problem. That is what changed him."

Timmins, of Wood Road, Lower Gornal, pleaded guilty to making threats to kill and assault and was given a 10-month jail sentence suspended for two years. He must do 80 hours unpaid work.

Judge James Burbidge QC told Timmins: "Your partner believes you have been punished enough. You owe her a large debt and should repay her by treating her with the utmost respect in future."

Talk on coins will be a nice change

THERE will be a talk on the history of English coins by Phil Griffiths at the Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Service's at its next meeting, which is being held tonight (Thursday).

The group meets in the archives building in Tipton Road at 7.30pm. Admission for non-members is £2 and refreshments will be served.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgian building for sale at auction

A GRADE II-listed former office building in the heart of Dudley town centre has gone on the market for £400,000 and will be sold at auction. The heritage building, on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Parsons Street, in Dudley, has been refurbished and converted into flats. A buyer for the property will now be sought during an auction at the Moat House Hotel, Festival Park in Stoke on October 30. The Georgian building, formerly used as solicitors offices, has been a prominent building in the town centre for decades and has been given a new lease of life as upmarket apartments.

Warning over tax con phone calls

POLICE are urging elderly residents to be careful after a spate of phone calls demanding money. In the latest scam victims will receive a call from someone stating that they work for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), saying tax is owed. The caller then claims that if a payment is not made immediately, the police will arrive to arrest them. Police say the call is not legitimate and payment should not be made under any circumstance. Anyone who receives such a call should contact Action Fraud on 0300 1232040.

More than half a century of hits

A HITMAKER of the rock 'n' roll era who found success again in the 1970s, Neil Sedaka, has a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday, September 14. The 78-year-old New Yorker's success began in 1959 with Oh! Carol. He had early 60s hits with Calendar Girl, Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen and Breaking Up Is Hard To Do. Sedaka relaunched his career in the 1970s, enjoying hits with Laughter In The Rain, Love Will Keep Us Together and Solitaire. Tickets are £60 and £51. See thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Bus group expands into Manchester area

PUBLIC transport business Rotala has agreed to buy a bus and minibus services business from Go Goodwins (Coaches) for £692,500. The firm, based in Tividale, has a fleet of 18 buses and property in Manchester, where it has service contracts. The acquisition potentially doubles Rotala's capacity, expanding into the Manchester area. Rotala, which owns Diamond Bus, also completed the purchase of Hansons (Wordsley) in July.

It's time for reflection as festival of glass ends

ORGANISERS of an international glass festival in the Stourbridge Glass Quarter have hailed the event as a resounding success and thank people for their support.

Director Janine Christley said she was 'proud' of the local community, which helped make the seventh annual event a success.

The four-day International Festival of Glass, featuring the British Glass Biennale, featured work from leading artists in the medium from across the globe.

Ms Christley said: "It has been a huge success. I think people in Stourbridge can be really proud of what they have done. There has been a fantastic contribution here from local artists and visitors from around the country and abroad.

"Some people came to see specific things but have ended up marvelling at other things. The festival has been absolutely fantastic."

The festival ended with a glass auction in the courtyard of the Ruskin Glass Centre with 95 items up for sale.

Will Farmer, of Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge, said a total of £8,927 was spent on items ranging from glass eyeballs to vases. The auction lasted for two hours. A glass piano valued at £500, called 'The Sound of Architecture' and made by Karlis Bougostovs, sold for £170. Carrie Fertig's glass lamb sold for £1,150.

Junction work is put back to 2018

WORK to improve safety and reduce congestion at a busy junction in Halesowen has been put back to next year.

The £3 million scheme to overhaul the junction at Dudley Road and Coombs Road in Halesowen started in January, but will not now be completed until 2018.

The final phase of the work was due start last week, and be finished during September, but Dudley Council has rescheduled the work until next year.

The project involves widening the pedestrian islands and increasing the lanes at the junction.

Work has finished on the entrances from Dudley Road, Furnace Hill and Halesowen Road, leaving the Coombs Road entrance for the final phase.

Safety on the agenda

PEOPLE will be able to hear about the work being done by the Community Safety Partnership on October 30 at Dudley Council House, from 6pm. Officials from Dudley Council, police and fire service will attend.

60,000 'missing out' on free bus travel

NEARLY 60,000 people aged over 60 in the West Midlands are missing out on free bus travel compared to other parts of the country, says a Black Country MP.

Research by Dudley North MP Ian Austin has revealed 59,239 local people aged between 60 and 64 have to wait until they are 65 for their free bus pass. But residents in Scotland, Wales and London can travel free on buses when they are 60.

Labour MP Mr Austin is now calling on West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to tackle what he says is a raw deal for people in the West Midlands.

He said public spending per person in the region lagged behind many other parts of the country. "Over-60s in the Black Country have to wait

much longer for free travel compared to those in London, Scotland or Wales," said Mr Austin.

"Many of them have worked hard all their lives and paid taxes which are used to subsidise higher levels of public spending in other parts of the country.

Services

"Bus passes would help the over-60s care for relatives, help look after the grandkids or get involved with local charities or community groups, as well as going out with friends.

"They would also help bus operators increase and improve services for us all. "Andy Street promised to use the West Midlands'

new devolved powers over transport to ensure 'buses and trains are as accessible as possible to older people, and protect the free bus pass'. We need a mayor who will stand up for local people and make sure they get the same level of services that people in other parts of the country take for granted."

The figures show there are 17,649 people aged between 60 and 64 in Dudley, 14,923 in Sandwell, 14,061 in Walsall, and 12,606 in Wolverhampton.

Mr Austin thinks free travel for those aged from 60-64 would be a boost for the region and that free passes would also encourage operators to provide more and better services. This in turn would encourage more people to use public transport, cut congestion and reduce pollution.

Bike route is confirmed despite traders' outcry

EXTENSIVE road closures will be in place next month near Dudley as the controversial Velo cycling festival route was confirmed.

Some 15,000 cyclists will tackle a 100-mile route through Birmingham, the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire on September 24.

Bosses have confirmed complete road closures will be in place along the route at different times as the cyclists make their way.

The planned closures were met with a backlash from traders who run businesses along the route, concerned about loss of trade on the day. One couple's wedding is in the balance as access to Blakelands Country House in Bobbington will be restricted due to Velo Birmingham. Paul Morgan, who owns Blakelands, which hosts weddings most weekends, said: "It's chaos. I've got to respond to a girl who's wedding is in two weeks time and she still doesn't know whether her make-up artist or even her registrar will be able to navigate through this."

A meeting was held at Halfpenny Green Vineyards where nearly 40 traders and residents were angry about the closures. There were claims that farmers will block the route with tractors. Bobbington parish Councillor Roger Lewis has called for legal action and South Staffs MP Gavin Williamson wants the Velo to take place elsewhere.

Charity

But local authorities have held firm and insist the road closures will go ahead. They say the Velo is the biggest charity bike ride to ever pass through the region and will aim to raise more than £1 million for charity. The event will start and finish in Broad Street, Birmingham, passing through Sandwell, Dudley, Lower Penn, South Staffs and Worcestershire.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, environment boss at Dudley Council, said: "This is the first race of its kind to come to the Midlands and is a fantastic opportunity for keen cyclists from across the country to see the best of our region while raising thousands of pounds for worthy charities."

Boxers fired up by sparring event



Dale Flute, of Tipton, and fireman Arron Lennon sparred at Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley

AROUND 400 people took part in a 12-hour spar-a-thon to help raise funds for a community boxing club.

Bosses at Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley held the inventive fundraiser during the build up to last month's big fight that saw Floyd Mayweather victorious over Conor McGregor.

The club's members were joined by friends and family, as well as a contingent of West Midlands firefighters, for the epic sparring session.

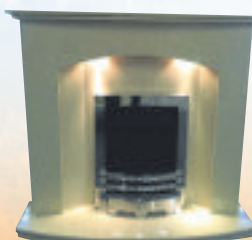
The fire service uses the gym for training and crew members were keen to get involved.

Club chairman Paul Gough said, "All of the money raised will

go to the Priory Park charity. It will help us to invest more in kids and to keep them off the streets. Boxing gives them goals to work towards."

Two rings at the club were in use throughout the spar-a-thon. Donations are still accepted via justgiving.com/crowdfunding/priorysparathon

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Excellent strategy to avoid core problems

GREAT news. Thanks to the excellent policies of local government, the Black Country's main town centres are doing exceptionally well. This is in no small part down to the excellent Black Country Core Strategy drawn up in 2011.

That's exactly what I thought when I walked through Dudley over the weekend, and surveyed the vast array of huge, glossy stores which have flocked to the town over the past six years. All those exciting payday lenders and charity shops.

We know our towns are thriving, because it says so in the consultation document for the Black Country Core Strategy. Yep, it's now time for the great and the good to ask for our vote of confidence, so they can give us more of the same.

Actually, it didn't say Dudley was thriving. Because if you read the fine print of the document – and the councils behind it know that most of us won't – the authors came up with a rather novel way of dealing with Dudley's decline. By redefining a town centre.

Of course, they redefined the Black Country years ago. And while I doubt whether many people feel any great affinity with a Black Country defined by 1970s local authority boundaries, at least we know what they mean.

However, the way that they redefined the term "town centre" is really quite special. Shortly before the publication of their vision, the signs for Brierley Hill town centre were quietly moved. Not just a few yards, but nearly a mile, so they are around the perimeter of the Merry Hill centre. The plan then redefined Merry Hill as being one of the "four strategic town centres for the Black Country", and quietly erased Dudley from the map. And that is the basis of the claim that our "main town centres" are thriving.

If you do want to have your say, consultation closes on Friday, although local councils also have their own definition of "consultation": "The exercise of telling people what they should be thinking, and then setting up a mechanism where only those who support it will reply."

Helpfully, they have decided to cut through the gobbledegook by providing a rather patronising questionnaire for "non-experts", which is filled with platitudes and loaded questions like: "Do you think people's health and wellbeing should be a key issue?" Dunno, can I have a few extra days to think about it?

It also asks: "Should we focus the growth of shopping, leisure and commercial development into our main town centres?" Depends how you define a town centre, doesn't it?

Ed and Geoff pitch in with colourful standpoints



Tom Burke – A number of issues with his role in the latest thriller from the Beeb



Hellboy and back – Ed Skrein, who found things were not all white in the latest superhero reboot



Geoffrey Boycott – did he get caught out making an off-colour comment?

Taking Strike at new TV thriller's realism

DRIVERLESS Lorries to Hit British Roads (headline this week). Precisely. And what else will they hit?

I WAS tempted by one of the ice-cream sweets on offer at a restaurant because it was "garnished with a malted ball." A malted ball? What exotic, sophisticated and perfectly crafted amuse-bouche might this be? Turned out to be a Malteser.

TWO questions hang over the Beeb's latest private-eye drama, Strike. Firstly, would it ever have made it into production if the "Robert Galbraith" who wrote the original novels had not been revealed as one J K Rowling? I doubt it. Secondly, why on earth is everyone so keen to chat to the private detective, Cormoran Strike? Why would the investigating police officer even deign to meet Strike? Why would the murdered woman's driver blab? Why would the concierge at her flat take Strike on a guided tour of the exclusive apartments, including the residents' swimming pool – surely a sacking offence? Take it from me, as one who spent a career trying to get people to talk about awkward issues, it is never that easy.

I SUGGESTED that new laws are needed to make pedestrians behave safely. It turns out to be an ancient argument. Back in 1942, the Autocar Handbook commented on "jay walking" laws in force in parts of Europe. But in Britain "much opposition has come from those who hold the ancient rights of the walker to be inviolable." Nothing has changed. In the name of

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



our ancient liberties we are free to walk – and free to die.

SOME scientists believe dementia could be avoided by adding lithium to our tap water. So let me be the first to alert you to the Great Lithium Conspiracy. It is, of course, a wicked plan concocted by the Illuminati, the shadowy figures who really control this planet, to introduce a sinister chemical into our water to take us over by controlling our minds and polluting our precious bodily fluids. It is part of their Master Plan which also involved kidnapping Elvis, assassinating John Lennon, faking the moon landings and murdering Princess Di (because she knew about the lithium). Do not touch a drop of lithiumised water without first wrapping your head in aluminium foil. Pass it on before they get you, too.

I ADMIT that until this week I had never heard of Ed Skrein. I admit, too, that I had to read reports of his "whitewash" campaign several times before understanding what he was banging on about. In a nutshell, Mr Skrein, an actor, was expected to play Major Ben Daimo in a new film, Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen. Then he discovered that in the original Hellboy comics, Daimo (an entirely fictitious character) was of

mixed-Asian heritage. After some protests from Asian activists, Skrein turned down the job, declaring: "I must do what I feel is right." For doing so, Skrein is a right-on hero. The Guardian hails his "inspiring protest against the invisibility of Asian people in the media." But the contradictions are endless. How, for example, does Skrein's decision fit in with the modern and thoroughly enlightened trend for colour-blind casting? If we can't have a white Major Daimo, how can we even discuss Idris Elba becoming the first black James Bond? As for the alleged "invisibility of Asian people in the media," what about Bollywood and martial-arts movies which are full of Indian and Chinese stars? Would Ed Skrein turn down the part of Hamlet on the grounds that he is not Danish? If not, why not?

IF you need evidence that our civilisation is in decline, look no further than the bank-holiday queues for cut-price Prosecco at some Lidl branches which descended into ugliness when stocks ran out. "My weekend is ruined," howled one hysterical Twitter user facing the unspeakable horror of having to pay £5.79 for a bottle of bubbly instead of the £3.33 offer. Ruination is not what it used to be.

GEOFF Boycott, a 76-year-old Yorkshireman, will keep his cricket commentating job despite his ill judged comment that the only way for him to get a knighthood would be to 'black me face'. Some accused him of racism for his remark but we should not ignore Boycott's own ethnicity. As 76-year-old Yorkshiremen go, he is a soft old woolly liberal.

TALKING POINT



Time for letting the world see real you

I MET up with a friend recently – one I have known for years and have spent many a pleasant evening over dinner catching up with all her latest family news. I was only too aware of all the problems she had had to face over the past weeks/months but did not feel that I should ask in case it upset her.

So I simply said: "How are things?" To which she replied with a smile on her face, "Just fine thanks" and we moved on. I knew that things were anything but fine but it's amazing how many people spend their lives doing that – painting a smile on their face and pretending everything is all right. And they do say that a problem shared and all that. . .

Maybe sometimes the problems are too personal and too difficult to talk about, and I understand that, but trying to stifle how they feel must surely make it harder to deal with and lead to even more stress.

We are all guilty to a certain extent. How many times at work have people greeted you with a cheery smile and said: "You OK?" for you to reply "Yes thanks". Many times I am sure they really don't want to hear how you actually feel. It is just a greeting not an actual question. Perhaps if you turned round and said: "Well actually I feel sh". they would run a mile. Stress is such a big problem these days and can lead to not eating properly and lack of sleep which add to health worries. In many cases depression is ignored, or seen as a stigma, and so the person is left to deal with it alone.

But these days, with the suicide rate in young people on the rise, there are initiatives that can help. And members of the Royal Family are leading the way.

Prince Harry recently revealed he "shut down all his emotions" for two decades after losing his mother Princess Diana. Harry admitted he sought therapy and took up boxing to combat frustration. Twenty years on and he finally found the strength to open up about the struggles the two brothers faced following their mother's death.

They, along with the Duchess of Cambridge, have teamed up for the Heads Together campaign, which works to dispel the stigma surrounding mental health.

Bringing people together in similar situations to talk about their problems means they do not feel that they have to face them alone. They can learn from people who may have been through similar difficulties how better to cope so that that the smiles people see are not false and they don't feel so alone. Surely it's worth a try.

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Worry about debt rather than Brexit

I WAKE up every day and thankfully find I'm not skewered on jagged rocks.

Okay, so Brexit has not yet been accomplished, and if the Remoaners and the traitorous band of EU addicts such as Blair have their way, it might never happen.

Nevertheless, legend had it that by now we would have all ended up at the bottom of a 90-foot deep cliff (remember the Fear Factor propaganda? 'We are sleep walking into falling off a cliff').

Keep an eye on children with asthma

THE school summer holidays have sadly come to an end. Children are at a much greater risk of having an asthma attack when they're back at school. Latest figures show children were 1.7 times more likely to be rushed to hospital following an asthma attack in September than in August.

Every 10 seconds someone has a potentially life-threatening asthma attack in the UK, so it's important for parents to spot the signs of an asthma attack early.

You should book an urgent appointment with the GP or asthma nurse if your child is: using their reliever inhaler (usually blue) more than three times a week; coughing or wheezing at night; feeling out of breath.

Parents who have concerns can speak to our nurses by calling 0300 222 5800 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm), or find more information by visiting www.asthma.org.uk/back-to-school

SONIA MUNDE
Nurse Manager
Asthma UK

This hasn't happened. Maybe it was a bungee jump or maybe there never was a cliff.

The devaluation of the pound (it has been overvalued for years) may have added to inflation and made those continental holidays more expensive but exports are booming as a result and there's plenty to shout about in manufacturing.

Then, of course, we were told all those super-intelligent whiz kids from Europe would be queuing up to leave.

Well, they haven't and more are entering. German and Japanese com-

panies who were also by now on their way out have in fact planned more investment in UK. Employment is at its highest level since Adam was a lad.

As far as I'm concerned, it's not the EU we have to fear for our long term future.

I have said on many occasions, I really worry about the level of personal debt we are piling up.

There will certainly be a reckoning unless this is checked and pronto.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Cycle race route should stay in Brum

THE Velo Birmingham Cycle Race, as far as I can make out, is described as a new venture to raise funds for 'local' charities. The charities being Alzheimer's Society, Cure Leukaemia, NSPCC and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. Of these four, three are national charities.

My grumble? We'll start from the fact that there will be 'rolling road closures' for much of the day! Causing inconvenience, and upset to local inhabitants, and it's only now that people are being informed about them. Why, after objections from local and district councils did the people in Stafford decide to allow it? It's not as if there will be any economic 'bonus' for the people being put to inconvenience.

If Birmingham Velo want a 'Birmingham' race hold it within their city.

MR M GOUGH
Wombourne

Give me a break, officer

MANY years ago, I was pulled by a young bobby at a bike shop in Dudley for only having one brake lever on the handle bars of my fixed wheel bike. He threatened to give me a summons if he saw me riding the bike.

I was so incensed that I went straight round to the library to look at the relevant regulations. The final ruling statement was 'bikes with a fixed rear wheel must have a brake on the front wheel operated by a lever on the handle bars!'

I rode a fixed wheel road bike for years, with no problems.

If young riders of today want to try riding fixed, they should do so during the winter months, because riders of such bikes have more control. Another thing: I learned to pedal, and frequently I was able to hold my own with riders of the day, riding back towards Wombourne after watching races up the Hermitage.

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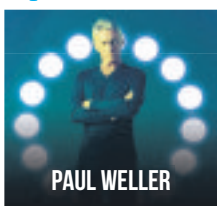
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Summer tea party enjoyed by all Back indoors for history society

CHAIRMAN Chris Holton presided over the August 8 meeting at Grange Court, Stourbridge. She welcomed 32 members and guests. The evening saw all members and guests enjoy a summer tea party prepared and served by committee members and their helpers.

Grange E Guild

Sue Wilding held a random raffle, where all members were allocated a number and many prizes were won. Speaker Jacqueline Hill talked about a children's charity she is connected with. It relies on sponsorship and donations to help to take 30 to 40 underprivileged children, aged 12-to-18, on a week's holiday to Bidford in Devon. A vote of thanks was given. The normal monthly raffle was then drawn with several prizes.

THE society enjoyed a most successful summer of outdoor meetings, which included a tour of the WWI training grounds on Cannon Chase, Dudley canal through the heart of the Black Country, and he railway and canal within the area of Withymoor.

Amblecote History

The society celebrated the 200th year of the birth of John Corbett participating in picnic celebrations at Chateau Impney, and rounded off summer at the International Festival

of Glass. The society will resume monthly indoor meetings on September 13 at 7.30pm, in the Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Glasshouse Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, with an illustrated talk on Himley Hall by Alan Peace. See our Facebook site for details.

A garden from scratch is topic of owner's talk

Clent Gardening Club

MEMBERS enjoyed two evening garden visits, firstly, to Langdale at Offenham near Evesham, whose owner Adrian James gave a talk at the next meeting.

His talk on "A garden from scratch" was the story behind the garden visited. Children having flown the nest, Adrian and his wife decided to downsize from their large house in Kidderminster (with a small garden) and moved to a bungalow in Offenham with a large garden laid to roughly mown grass.

Adrian's garden in Kidderminster had been opened under the "Yellow Book" scheme and his target was to create a new garden suitable for opening under this scheme in under four years! They moved in to their new home in 2009 and the target, successfully achieved, was to open to the public in 2013.

Adrian gave an entertaining talk embellished with many excellent photographs as one of his sidelines is producing photographs professionally for gardening magazines.

After proposing a vote of thanks, the chairman and members enjoyed their usual coffee, tea and biscuits following which he announced the results of the monthly competitions and drew the raffle.

The second visit was to New House Farm at Elmbridge near Droitwich. Both were enjoyed, as well as the obligatory coffee and cakes.

Meetings are held at Clent Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month.

Author books in to entertain members



New member Margaret Holloway, Michael Taylor signing books and registrar Jan Burrows

A RECORD attendance of 40 members an one visitor enjoyed an excellent three-course lunch, before chairman Pauline Handley introduced speaker Michael Taylor, a local author who set his novels in areas around Dudley.

He described the chaos and havoc inflicted by the ex-convict navvies who built the railways and learned of the terrible scenes in Brierley Hill in 1858 when 42 railway coaches travelling from Worcester to Wolverhampton crashed, killing many and injuring more than 100.

Mr Taylor mainly pens romantic novels for women and now writes under the

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

name of Nancy Carson. Several members purchased signed copies of his books at a reduced price.

On August 11, there was a coffee morning at the home of Ann and Mike Rogers. Strawberries and cream scones were served and also there was a very successful bring and buy stall and raffle, boosting funds for charities.

Sue Langley talk about her Great Aussie Adventure on October 13 and Mike Wood MP will inform members about Parliamentary and Current Affairs on November 10.

Stories from a trip across the Andes – on horseback

West Mids Federation

CHAIRMAN Margaret Tew welcomed 123 guild members and guests, including the Federation President Christine Yorke to the West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's annual luncheon at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill.

After grace, members enjoyed a three-course meal followed by tea/coffee and mints. Jean Williams then proposed the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen and Betty Davies gave the toast to all the guilds within the Federation. Maureen Golborne gave the response on behalf of all guilds.

Following a short break Chairman Margaret Tew introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Sue Hickman who gave a very interesting talk about crossing the Andes on horseback.

She told of the beautiful sights that she visited and the interesting people that she met and held everyone's attention with all the wonderful slides that were shown during the talk.

Sue was given a vote of thanks by Margaret Tew and was presented with a bouquet.

The raffle was drawn and three lucky winners received the prizes. There was also a draw for the plants that decorated each table. The luncheon was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

The next event being held by West Midlands Federation will be the Autumn Celebrations which is being held in Wollaston Village Hall on October 11. Members are advised to order their tickets as the event is being well supported.

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Chloe's charity steps in memory of father



Chloe in fundraiser in memory of her father

A DANCER has organised an evening of song and dance to raise money for a cancer charity in memory of her father who died from the disease.

Chloe Evans, aged 20 from Sedgley, has organised the event for Bowel Cancer UK, a charity she has supported since losing her father to bowel cancer in 2013, at the age of 42. The Worcester University-student has raised £3,000 to date. The event will take place at Colton Hills Community School in Wolverhampton on October 21.

Chloe said: "The evening is to remember my dad, who died from bowel cancer four years ago. The day after would have been his 46th birthday. I like to organise fundraising events in his memory on special dates like this one to turn what could be a sad day into a celebration."

"I have raised over £3,300 for Bowel Cancer UK in memory of my Dad in nine months, and it would be amazing to reach £4,000 by the end of the year."

Chloe's dance group, Ignite Dance Company will be performing at the fundraising event.

Tributes to victim of crash on main road

TRIBUTES have been paid to a man who was killed in a crash on the A449 between Wolverhampton and Wombourne.

Iana Dumitru has been described as 'a nice guy who had a private life' by those who knew him. He died in a crash on August 27 that also left a five-month-old baby with serious injuries.

The red Peugeot 206 overturned on the Stourbridge Road, Penn, just after 6.30pm. Horrified passers-by rushed to try to help on Sunday with one attempting CPR on the man while another picked up the crying baby from a grass verge.

By Clare Butler

were all taken to hospital. A family member, also from Bucharest, said: "He was my mother's boyfriend."

"I saw something about an accident on social media and then my mother got in touch to say what had happened. She said they had been on a trip out on the evening to a lake nearby."

"He had been staying with family friends while working in Wolverhampton in retail. He had gone to Wolverhampton for a something better and to be on a one-year work contract."

"He was a nice guy, someone who was okay to speak too. He didn't have any other family than my mother. We are in shock from this tragedy."

Friends

Shop worker Mr Dumitru, 51, who was from Bucharest, Romania, had been spending the evening out with friends when the accident took place.

A boy aged 16 was questioned by police on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Other occupants of the vehicle, a five-month-old baby, its 23-year-old mother and a 49-year-old woman,

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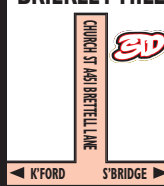
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DY2 7DN
- 2:00pm **Dudley Queens Cross**
Christadelphian Hall
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DY1 1QT
- 10:00am **Halesowen**
Christadelphian Hall
Bromsgrove Road
Halesowen, B63 3JL
- 6:00pm **Kinner**
Ashwood Park Primary
Bells Lane, Wordsley
DY8 5DJ
- 6:00pm **Lye**
Christadelphian Hall
Pedmore Road, Lye
DY9 8DA
- 6:15pm **Oldbury**
Christadelphian Hall
St. James Road, Oldbury
B69 2EP
- 1:45pm **Rowley Regis**
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Investing in new windows and doors or a conservatory is a huge commitment, so it is vital to get expert advice from trusted professionals.

Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Limited have a wealth of experience and will spend time with you, thoroughly discussing your options. Offering a 10-year insurance backed guarantee, they will never ask for a deposit or stage payments – with customers only paying after the installation is complete.

And after they've left you to enjoy your new purchase, they won't just walk off into the sunset. In the unlikely event of something going wrong with your windows, doors or conservatory you'll be fully covered for after care with your guarantee.

The company, which is based in Halesowen, can also assist with repairs and maintenance problems with your current windows, doors and conservatories regardless of who originally fitted them.

These are people who definitely know what they're doing!

And, if you're scratching your head for ideas on how to fund your new project, they can give you some help. A company spokesman said: "A Barclays Home Improvement Account offers you the ideal way to fund your home improvement."

Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Ltd's products are fabricated 'in house', utilising their own specialist PVCu manufacturing plant. The company has over 30 years experience, and are a major supplier of quality PVCu installations of windows, doors, conservatories, porches, orangeries and fascia and soffit boards throughout the West Midlands. "All installations are



It is vital to get expert advice before choosing your new windows and doors

fully supervised from initial design through to final installation by expert Rydale operatives," added the company spokesman.

The team of expert fitters have a wealth of experience and are recommended for their polite, courteous and tidy approach. Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Ltd is Certass registered and Fair Trades and No Rogue Traders Here approved.

In addition the company is fully compliant with Document L Building Regulations. "Our approach ensures a consistently high level of quality control and also allows our customers to achieve considerable savings by buying direct," added their company spokesman.

Experts from Rydale Windows will offer advice and ideas

Their A rated windows, which reduce heat loss by more than 20 per cent, are fitted as standard and can save over £250 off your heating bill in the first year alone.

At Rydale Windows they take security very seriously. "All of our doors and windows are fitted with high security multi point locks."

For further information contact Rydale Windows (Manufacturing) Limited on 0800 917 6060 or visit www.rydalewindows.co.uk



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GET SAVING ON ENERGY BILLS IN PREPARATION FOR WINTER WITH DUDLEY'S BIG SWITCH

With autumn soon taking its hold Dudley Borough residents are being encouraged to get saving on their energy bills before winter bites.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy which are not available elsewhere. Residents who have registered at previous auctions have saved up to £300 on their home energy bills, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer, as it is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered by the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, and it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites. To get the best deal it is well worth registering.

In recent month's five of the 'Big six' energy providers have announced price hikes for people on standard variable rate tariffs, with British Gas announcing a 12.5 percent rise in its electricity prices. The majority of people are on standard variable tariffs (sixty-six percent according to Ofgem) and can potentially therefore make significant savings by signing up to switch.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped half a million pounds.

The latest Big Switch has launched this week. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered, people are encouraged to call 0300 555 2345 to register, or you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch. People will need to have their current tariff details and fuel usage (shown in the most recent bill) to hand.



The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter and people with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Cllr Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said:

"Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular over the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and saving hundreds of pounds on their home energy bills. The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money. With winter on its way now is the ideal time to be registering to save, as well as keeping warm and well at home."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345** or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch.



Save cash on your energy bills

Sign up to Dudley's Big Switch and we will get energy companies to compete to win you as a customer by offering you the very best market leading deals, not available elsewhere.

At previous Big Switches people have saved up to **£300** on their gas and electricity bills.

Register by 9 Oct 2017

Simply call Dudley Council Plus on
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Or you can also register online and find out more information at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch



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Daniel Westwood Studio Family design Artist Felicity Hammond draws inspiration from the Black Country



Masters of their universe

THE wait to find out who are the 100 most talented and skilled Masters from the Black Country is over – at least for some.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, has begun to release the names of those who made the list. Here we feature the first contingent from Dudley nominated by the people of the Black Country.

The year-long regional campaign is aimed at inspiring and offering people a fresh perspective about the strengths, skills, talent and expertise surfacing from their locality and community. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for the June 30 deadline and now the 100 Masters list has been compiled.

Each day until November a Master is being released via the 100 Masters website – with all 100 to feature in the Express & Star. The public will

get the chance to get up close to some of the Masters when they appear at a special Expo on November 25 at Starworks in Wolverhampton.

A Master is described as 'a noteworthy person who has forged their own path and displayed outstanding ability that has influenced others.'

Project Coordinator, Liam Smyth, from Arts Council England funded group Creative Black Country said: "The Black Country was forged at the hands of men and women from

all walks of life who honed their skills to the highest levels. The final 100 Masters showcase the wealth of talent that our area has to offer."

Those nominated from Dudley include: Artist Felicity Hammond, former Stourbridge College student has been a finalist and nominee for numerous top awards including Saatchi New Sensations in 2014; fashion designer Elizabeth Isley, put her own fashion spin on leather jackets bought in charity shops, caught

the eye of celebrities including Kim Kardashian and now has studio in Birmingham.

Artist Dean Melbourne, his work has been accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition three times; sculptor Luke Perry, whose metal work is seen at locations across the Black Country; brewer Scott Povey, from Blackheath's Fixed Wheel Brewery; digital designer Daniel Westwood, from Halesowen, who has worked with leading ad agencies.

Sing-along will help people with dementia

THE Salvation Army is launching sing-along sessions in a bid to help people who have dementia.

The Sedgley group is one of the first Salvation Army churches to host a Singing By Heart group, which will be held on the final Monday in each month.

Those living with dementia can go along with their carers for a selection of popular Christian and secular songs.

The army is also holding a free hour-long dementia awareness session on Tuesday to give people an idea about living with the illness. The sing-along is the brainchild of The Salvation Army's older people's ministries and its music and creative arts teams.

Margaret Hollis, a local leader, said: "Singing really helps to make both a spiritual and mind connection and people really enjoy their time together."

"We are committed to growing awareness about dementia in Sedgley. We want to welcome people into our future activities within the community."

Singing by Heart launches on September 25 at All Saints Church Hall, Ladies Walk in Sedgley. It will take place at the rear of the hall, opposite the clinic and library. See www.dementiafriends.org.uk for further information.

Football star will give property tips

FORMER England and Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler will be giving tips on building a property empire with a talk in Dudley.

The ex-Premier League star has built up a multimillion pound housing portfolio since retiring from the beautiful game.

A free workshop will take place at the Cophorne Hotel Merry Hill at Brierley Hill on September 14. He will give tips to those looking to invest and get into the market.

Further information can be found on the Property Academy website at www.property-academy.com

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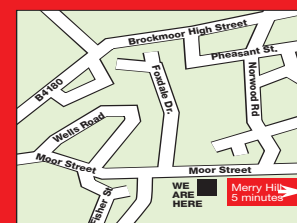
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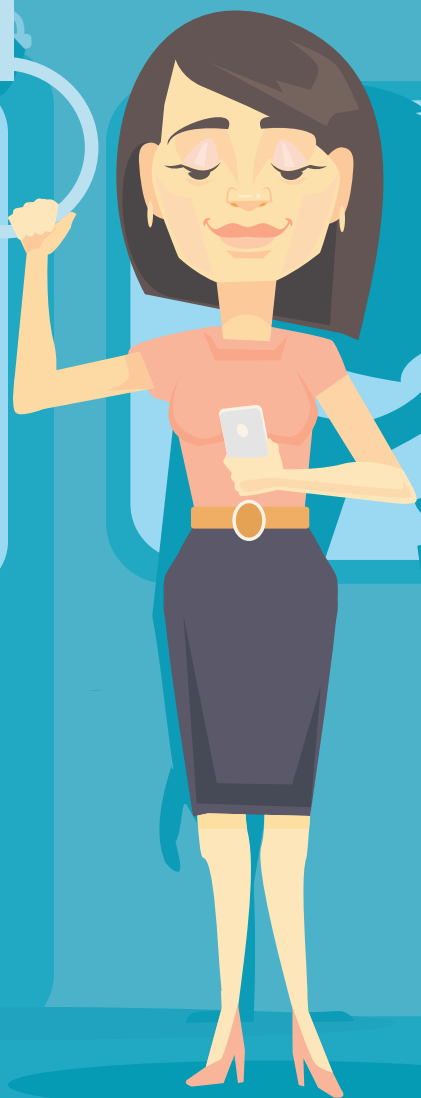
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And they're off! The crowd of runners get going on the gruelling 26.2 mile route that winds around the city streets

Blood, sweat and tears – but all winners in the end

IT WAS a day of heroes as the 20th Wolverhampton Marathon took place and packed the city.

Training partners Mark Ince and Daniel Robinson took the honours in the main Carver Wolverhampton Marathon. But they weren't the only ones celebrating as almost 2,000 people took part in either the marathon, half marathon, 10k run, 20k bike ride or other events.

From elite athletes to those taking on their first big run or bike there was blood, sweat, tears and plenty of smiles. As usual it was a colourful spectacle with many donning costumes for the occasion including Craig Smallman and Connor Hardy, from Wolverhampton, who came as Batman and Robin.

Stuart Bailey, a 45-year-old store manager, from Bilbrook, donned a six kilo Peppa Pig outfit to raise money for New Cross Hospital in the half marathon as a thank you for the treatment his grandson George received there. He said afterwards: "I didn't know it was raining until I took the head off at the finish."

He has raised over £30,000 for charities over the last seven years in 40 events of different distances wearing a variety of guises ranging from the Jolly Green Giant and yellow chicken, through to Morticia Addams and Father Christmas – the last of which saw the 6ft 4ins tall store manager lose half a stone during this year's London Marathon.

Andy Newman, a 46-year-old carpenter and father-of-three from Fordhouses, launched the Wolverhampton Bobsled Team six years ago. Since then they have got through four sledges while competing in 30 different events, raising almost £30,000 for good causes.

This year the beneficiary was the Teenage Cancer Trust for whom inspirational teenager Stephen Sutton raised millions before his death. His mother Jane was among the four strong team that carried the 15ft long bobsled in the Banks's 10k run.

Bride

Bride-to-be Abi Reynolds turned the half marathon into a 'hen run'. The 42-year-old finance assistant from Perton – who ties the knot in just days – ran with her bridesmaid Rhona Woodward and workmate Danni

Father-of-one Trev Foster, a 46-year-old steel stockholder from Bishops Wood, ran the half marathon for the eighth time, starting in 2008 when he was dressed as an Air Ambulance. Since then he has collected around £20,000 for good causes, in recent years accompanied by his son Josh, 22. This time they dressed as American Marines in memory of a close family friend who had been a Marine and died earlier this year. The pair raised money for Compton Hospice, where he died.

Trev said: "If you take part in shorts and vest people clap you but if you are dressed like a lunatic they cheer you and that keeps you going. I don't care about the time. It is about raising money for charity."



Getting plenty of cheers as they ran – Trev Foster and son Josh



Batman and Robin later unmasked as Craig Smallman and Connor Hardy



Bride-to-be Abi Reynolds with Rhona Woodward and Danni Braine

What's New

Sept-Dec 2017

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FREE TASTERS — pre booking essential

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PORTUGUESE FOR BEGINNERS	Mon 18 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE
FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS	Mon 18 Sept	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE
BALLROOM DANCING	Mon. 18 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE
DANCE FIT	Tues. 19 Sept	18.00-19.30	1 wk.	FREE
PLAY THE GUITAR FOR BEGINNERS	Tues. 19 Sept	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE
SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS	Tue 19 Sept.	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE
	Wed 20 Sept.	11.30-13.00	1 wk.	FREE

LANGUAGES

FRENCH				
NEW Beg:	Mon. 25 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	10wks.	£69.00#
Improvers:	Tues. 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
Advanced:	Thurs 21 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
ITALIAN				
NEW Beg:	Mon 25 Sept	14.30-16.00.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers:	Mon 18 Sept	09.30-11.30.	11 wks.	£75.90#
Intermediates:	Mon 18 Sept	12.00-14.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
SPANISH				
NEW Beg:	Tue 26 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£69.00#
NEW Beg:	Wed 27 Sept	11.30-13.00.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Cont Beg:	Tue 19 Sept.	14.30-16.00.	11 wks.	£62.70#
Improvers:	Wed 20 Sept.	09.30-11.00.	11 wks.	£62.70#
Intermediates:	Wed 20 Sept.	14.00-15.30.	11 wks.	£62.70#
PORTUGUESE				
NEW Beg:	Mon 25 Sept.	18.00-19.30.	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers:	Mon 25 Sept.	19.35-21.05.	10 wks.	£57.00#
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE				
Introduction:	Tues 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	4 wks.	£30.40#

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS	Tues 19 Sept.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.	£22.80#
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(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

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AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD	Tues 19 Sept.	09.30-11.30	1 wk.	£7.60#
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD	Tues 26 Sept	09.30-11.30	3 wks.	£22.80#
MASTERING YOUR IPAD	Tues 17 Oct.	09.30-11.30	3 wks.	£22.80#
START YOUR OWN BUSINESS	Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	4 wks.	£30.40#
INTRO TO MANUAL BOOK KEEPING	Mon 16 Oct.	19.00-21.00	8 wks.	£60.80#
BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY	Tues 14 Nov.	9.30-11.30.	4 wks.	£30.40#
HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE	Fri 15 Sept.	09.30-12.30	2 wks.	£22.80#

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	Sat 09 Sept.	08.50-09.20.	13 wks.	£29.25#
	Sun 10 Sept.	12.45-13.30.	13 wks.	£43.90#
SEW TOGETHER	Thurs 2 Nov.	16.00-17.30.	5 wks.	£28.50#
FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY	Tues 31 Oct.	16.00-17.30.	5 wks.	£28.50#

HEALTH & FITNESS AND DANCE

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS	Thurs 21 Sept	18.00-19.00	12 wks.	**NEW** £45.60
PILATES				
Improvers:	Tues 19 Sept.	19.00-20.00.	12 wks.	£45.60
Improvers:	Wed 13 Sept.	18.30-19.30.	13 wks.	£49.40
Improvers:	Thurs 14 Sept.	19.05-20.05.	13 wks.	£49.40
Improvers:	Thurs 14 Sept.	20.10-21.10.	13 wks.	£49.40
Beginners @ The Oakfield Centre:				
	Fri 15 Sept.	10.00-11.00.	13 wks.	£54.60#
FITNESS YOGA	Tues 19 Sept.	20.05-21.05.	12 wks.	£45.60
ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:				
Beginners:	Mon. 18 Sept	19.00-19.45.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Beginners:	Tues. 19 Sept	19.00-19.45.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Improvers:	Mon. 18 Sept	19.45-20.30.	12 wks.	£48.00#
Advanced:	Mon. 18 Sept	20.30-21.15.	12 wks.	£48.00#
BALLROOM DANCING				
Beginners:	Mon 25 Sept.	18.45-19.45	10 wks.	£38.00
Imp / Inters:	Mon 25 Sept.	19.50-21.05	10 wks.	£41.80
DANCE FIT				
	Tues 26 Sept.	18.00-19.00	10 wks.	£38.00#
	Tues 26 Sept.	19.10-20.10	10 wks.	£38.00#

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR				
Intermediates:	Mon. 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	11 wks.	£75.90#
NEW Beg:	Tues. 26 Sept	19.00-20.30	10 wks.	£57.00#
Improvers :	Thurs. 21 Sept.	19.00-20.30	11 wks.	£62.70#
PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)				
Beginners:	Mon 18 Sept	16.45-17.45	5 wks.	***
Improvers:	Mon 18 Sept	17.45-18.45	5 wks.	***
Intermediates	Thurs 14 Sept.	17.45-18.45	6 wks.	***

*** Please contact Student Services for prices

HANDICRAFTS

PATCHWORK FOR BEGINNERS	Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00	5 wks.	**NEW** £38.00#
UPHOLSTERY SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS	Tues 19 Sept.	12.00-14.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
SEWING FOR PLEASURE	Tues 19 Sept.	09.30-11.30.	11 wks.	£75.90#
PATCHWORK SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS	Wed 20 Sept.	14.30-16.30	11 wks.	£75.90#
UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS	Wed 20 Sept.	12.00-14.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
SEWING MADE SIMPLE SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS	Thurs 21 Sept.	18.00-20.00	11 wks.	£75.90#
UPHOLSTERY SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS	Mon 30 Oct.	19.00-21.00	5 wks.	**NEW** £38.00#

ARTS AND CRAFTS

POTTERY FOR BEGINNERS	Sat 16 Sept.	10.00 - 12.00.	8 wks.	**NEW** £75.80#
	Sat 16 Sept.	12.30 - 14.30.	8 wks.	**NEW** £75.80#
GET TO KNOW POETRY	Thurs 21 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	**NEW** £38.00#
CREATIVE WRITING	Mon 18 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	£38.00#
<i>Romance and Horror in Angela Carter</i>				**NEW**
	Tue 19 Sept.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	£38.00#
PAINTING AND DRAWING	Wed 20 Sept.	9.30 - 11.30.	11 wks.	£75.90#
	Thurs 21 Sept.	10.00-12.00.	11 wks.	£75.90#
	Thurs 21 Sept.	13.30- 15.30.	11 wks.	£75.90#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS	Thurs 21 Sept.	19.30-21.00.	11 wks.	£62.70#
LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE	Tue 19 Sept.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.	£38.00#
CAKE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS	Tues 19 Sept.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.	£43.00#
SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS	Tues 31 Oct.	19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks.	£43.00#
GET COOKING				**NEW**
Please contact Student Services for dates, times and prices				
FUN WITH FOOD				**NEW**
Please contact Student Services for dates, times and prices				

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

TAI CHI MOVEMENTS FOR WELLBEING	Mon 18 Sept.	19.30-20.30.	6 wks.	**NEW** £22.80#
MINDFULNESS	Mon 6 Nov.	19.30-20.30.	6 wks.	£22.80#



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets (!) includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 23rd to 29th October unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

PLEASE NOTE: A 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments processed through Dudley MBC. Debit card payments remain unchanged.

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Sat 16 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

Sat 14 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

INTRO TO ITALIAN

Sat 16 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

EMPLOYABILITY AND INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

Sat 23 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

INTRO TO SPANISH

Sat 23 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

IPAD FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 30 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

MINDFULNESS TASTER

Sat 30 Sept. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

INTRO TO EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Sat 7 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

ALTER CLOTHES TO FIT

Sat 7 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1wk. £20.55

CAKE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 14 Oct. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 18 Nov. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30 1 wk. £20.55

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Call for safety measures after cars hit wall on corner

RESIDENTS have called for action at an 'accident blackspot' after two crashes in less than a week. A 200-year-old wall has been knocked down following the latest of the incidents in Gospel End Street, Sedgley.

Concerned residents say that after a week in which two cars crashed and ploughed into the wall on the bend, then a van crashed at the same spot.

Following that incident was charged with drink-driving. Karl Plant, aged 45 of Pine Green, Dudley will appear at Dudley Magistrates court on September 13.

Keeper Sam reward with zoo diploma

A KEEPER at Dudley Zoo has completed his training to become the latest fully-qualified member of staff at the Castle Hill attraction.

Sam Grove has successfully passed a two-year Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals course.

The 25 year-old said: "I'm delighted, it's been hard work so it's a relief to have finished."

The DMZAA is run in partnership with the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Sparsholt College in Hampshire. It is designed for people already working in the zoo community.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "This qualification is the industry standard for training zoo keepers and we're keen for all DZG keeping staff to complete it."

Worried

A resident, who did not want to be named, said: "We are really worried that these cars come around the corner and can lose control if they take it too sharply. The wall that they crash into is up to 200 years old and has partly fell over and been reduced to rubble."

"It is a miracle that people don't get hurt."

"This is an issue that we really want highlighting. We need to sort this out and put some measures in place to stop anything fatal happening."

Further around the bend, at the road's junction with Vicar Street, safety improvements are set to get underway later this year.

Plans are in the pipeline to reconstruct Gospel End Street in Sedgley to highlight give-way signs and markings. It can prove a tricky section for motorists to navigate, due to the sharpness of the bend and location of the road being on a hillside.

No California dreamin' for these troops



Queen's Dragoon Guards driving Jackal trucks on patrol in the California desert Courtesy of @BritishArmy

FROM their base in the Black Country to the scorching heat of the Californian deserts, it's been quite a change of scene for Dudley's Army reservists, who have been put through their paces in the Mojave Desert.

Members of B Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry – based at Vicar Street in Dudley – have been supporting their paired regiment, the senior light cavalry British Army regiment 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The squadron conquered exercise Diamond Back in up to 36°C (96.8°F) heat.

Deployed from RAF Brize Norton in August to the United States National Training Centre in South East California, they joined the US Army for training in testing terrains.

Private Tasha Cox, from Kinver, who has been in the Army Reserve for less than 18 months, said: "I get to train alongside regular medics and

gain valuable experience. The learning curve has been big but so much fun. "They (B Squadron) have been really supportive in getting me out here."

The centre, Fort Irwin, is where the USA Armoured Brigades train before every deployment and extends to the size of all the military bases in the UK combined. The Brits have been working hard learning how to camouflage themselves to blend into the rocky landscape.

£1m ice age attraction to hit safari park

WEST Midland Safari Park will turn back the clock to the ice age with a new £1 million attraction to open next year.

Highlights of the interactive experience will include a 26ft high 'volcano', an ice cave and life-sized animal exhibits.

They will form part of an open-air walk designed to show visitors what life was like when saber-toothed tigers and woolly mammoths roamed the earth.

Animaltronics will be used to bring realistic ice age creatures to life – some of which will be more than 12ft tall. It follows the success of the Land of the Living Dinosaurs, which cost £2.5 million and opened two years ago.

Bosses want the new attraction, which could be open next summer, to be educational but they say it has also been designed to capture the imagination of visitors by providing an 'immersive experience'.

An application for planning permission for the project has now been submitted to Wyre Forest District Council with a decision due within the next few months.

Although the ice age attraction will be situated close to the dinosaur exhibit, it will fill unused space near the sea lion arena and Treetops Pavilion.

Mayor's walk for Alzheimer's Society

THE Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, has organised a Memory Walk to support Dudley Alzheimer's Society, one of three charities he has chosen to help during his year in office.

The sponsored walk at Himley Hall on October 8 at 11am is for all ages and abilities.

Teenagers hip hop to the top with Oz groove

TALENTED teenagers from Sandwell and Wolverhampton took on a summer experience with a difference as they joined a professional dance company to put on a hip hop dance show at major venues in the West Midlands.

Pupils from St Matthias School in Wolverhampton have been hosting the three-week residency with London-based ZooNation Dance company to stage a unique take of The Wizard of Oz.

Groove On Down the Road was staged last weekend in the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton and from September 27 to 29 is being performed at the Patrick Centre at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The show features 25 teenagers from St Matthias, Coppice Performing Arts, Our Lady and St Chad's schools in Wolverhampton and the Shirelands Academy in Sandwell.

St Matthias has raised more than £25,000 to give the students the opportunity to work alongside some of the leading hip hop dancers in the country.

Engaging

Rhimes Lecoate, who is directing the show, is a long-standing member of the ZooNation team and runs her own dance company, Boadicea, in London.

She said: "We love bringing our work to new audiences and engaging with young people; we have been able to select a really talented and enthusiastic cast and the show is a great introduction to our style of hip-hop theatre."

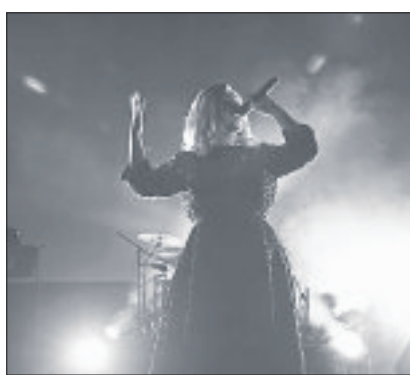
Mya Wright, aged 15, from Our Lady and St Chad's School, is playing Dorothy in the show. She said: "Having the opportunity to play the main part has given me the confidence to believe I can do anything in the future; this is such a cool project."

Councillor Claire Darke, Wolverhampton's cabinet member for education, said: "It is fantastic to see our young people given this incredible opportunity."

The show is staged 7.45pm nightly, see birminghamhippodrome.com for tickets.



The iconic Blood Brothers returns in April



Katie Markham will bring The Adele Songbook to life



Beautiful - The Carole King Musical comes to the Grand in June

Grand! Hello to Adele show

TICKETS for a host of top-draw shows are now on sale – ranging from classics of the stage to twists on modern classics.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre has lined up a variety of shows, including the return of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers.

This will take over the theatre for a six-evening stint next April. The classic drama is one of a number of new shows announced, including a production from Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs, who will be bringing Freezin', their take on Disney classic Frozen, to life.

The Fizzogs, who shot to fame in 2014 after a video of their dancing grannies' routine went viral, will perform at the Grand on November 16, the night after Katie Markham takes the songs of Adele to the city as part of the Someone Like You – The Adele Songbook show.

Katie was hand-picked by Adele herself on Graham Norton's BBC Adele Special in 2015 to take on the role of the multi-million-selling singer for a stage production and has not looked back since.

She will be performing hits from the re-

cord-breaking albums 19, 21 and 25 on November 16. Tickets are on sale for a special Afternoon with Christopher Biggins show, hosted by BBC Midlands Today's Nick Owen, taking place on October 27.

Fans will be able to join in with a talk on the career of the 68-year-old actor, who has appeared in programmes including Porridge, Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em and Surprise Surprise in what is a unique show for the theatre.

Wowed

Shows on sale for next year, include an evening with Buddy Holly and The Cricketers with The Rock and Roll Orchestra. The show has wowed audiences across the globe from Cardiff to California in recent years and will return to Wolverhampton on March 7.

After surpassing 10,000 shows a long time ago, Blood Brothers is still going strong and the show, dubbed the Standing Ovation Musical for its ability to invariably get crowds on their feet at the end of the evening returns, to the city on April 16, running through to April 21.

Bringing the new series of shows to a close is Beautiful – The Carole King Musical, which tells

the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom.

It goes from her being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in pop music history. Beautiful will be at Wolverhampton Grand from June 12 to 16. T

Tickets can be bought by calling 01902 429212, in person at the box office or online at grandtheatre.co.uk.

Become a Friend of the Grand by calling the box office or online at grandtheatre.co.uk/support.

Next month marks one year since the Grand raised the curtain on improvements made during a £1.1 million revamp of the historic theatre.

It saw the ground level of the theatre completely redesigned to be more convenient for people visiting the box office for tickets and information.

The merchandise and confectionery kiosk were also replaced by a bar during the work, which bosses said added a touch of razzmatazz to the site and was inspired by 1920s theatres.



An afternoon with Christopher Biggins

Nuisance drivers are 'putting lives at risk'

A FED-UP Dudley resident says he is constantly disturbed by motorists who mistakenly drive up the path outside his home thinking that it is the highway.

David Pugh, aged 68, of Ash Grove, Dudley, says bollards are needed at the point where the road turns into a pathway.

The path, which is approximately six feet wide and 200 yards long, but he is aware of motorists speeding up it into during the early hours of the morning, unaware that the road ends at the path.

Dangerous

Mr Pugh said: "It's dangerous, there are elderly people and children using that as a short-cut to go to the town. It only takes it to happen once, particularly if it's dark or if it's raining, it only takes it to happen once. They are putting lives at risk, children's live at risk"

Motorists were stopped from using the through-road a little over

25 years ago, he said, but many still driver, sometimes at speed, thinking they have a through-route but then have to turn around or reverse.

Mr Pugh, who moved to Ash Grove 12 months ago, has written to the council calling for it to place bollards at the entrance of the pathway.

"I have got Parkinson's and I have been diabetic for 34 years, I can't seem to rest with it," he said.

In a response from Dudley Council, Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We have already visited Mr Pugh to look at the issues he raised and have agreed to install an extra bollard. However, we have now had further feedback from local residents and the proposed location may have access problems, it may impact access for one of the residents.

"Further discussions are taking place with the residents and as soon as we get the final location agreed then the bollard should be in within about a week."



David Pugh, of Ash Grove, Dudley, is fed up with motorists driving up the pathway outside his home

Shocking figures as 226 die while waiting for organ transplant

MORE than 200 people in Black Country and Staffordshire have died while waiting for an organ transplant in the last decade.

The shocking figure was revealed today by NHS Blood and Transplant in a desperate bid to get more donors.

A total of 119 of those who died lived in Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell while 107 were from Staffordshire. Twenty nine died in Shropshire and the total number of lives lost in the West Midlands over the same period was 302.

Twenty five of the deaths were in Walsall, 35 in Wolverhampton, 24 in Dudley and 35 in Sandwell.

Now 129 more people face a similar risk while waiting for a donor in the Black Country and a further 105 are in the same situation in Staffordshire.

NHS bosses reckon hundreds of lifesaving transplants are being missed every year because families had not been made aware of what their relatives wishes were. It is believed that many people think it 'safer' to say no to a donation request on behalf of another person when they really do not know what the deceased's views were.

Anthony Clarkson, assistant director of organ donation and transplantation, said: "It is a tragedy that people are dying unnecessarily waiting for transplants."

Ambulance crews lose hundreds of hours at A&E

AMBULANCES were kept waiting for more than 1,000 hours before they could drop off patients in just one month at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Patients were forced to wait up to two hours in ambulances and corridors before being taken into hospital care, according to new figures.

At Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, paramedics wasted 338 hours waiting to hand-over patients in June. One patient had to wait 1 hour 56 minutes.

At New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton the paramedics were forced to waste 262 hours in the same month, at Walsall Manor 172 hours, Sandwell 121 hours and at Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford 172 hours. The time wasted is calculated by adding the total number of waiting hours AFTER the targeted 15 minute handover period.

Penalties

Hospital trusts risk financial penalties for delaying ambulance staff - £200 per patient waiting between 30 and 60 minutes, £1,000 per patient waiting more than an hour.

West Midlands Ambulance Service deploys hospital ambulance liaison officers to work with bed managers to help with the handover process.

A spokesman said: "A&E departments are working hard to provide the highest standards of care. Only

around a third of A&E patients arrive by ambulance so at times of peak demand, handover delays do occur."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Chief operating officer, Paul Bytheway, said said: "The new emergency treatment centre opening on November 20 will help reduce handover times as we are increasing our ambulance triage bays from four to 12."

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust said: "We are seeing record numbers of ambulances arriving. The care we provide for all our patients will always be the high quality, safe care they deserve."

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust chief operating officer Rachel Barlow said: "We apologise to patients who have been kept waiting longer than normal."

Walsall Healthcare NHS trust said: "There are moments of high demand which may lead to ambulance waits."

Heater caused fatal fire

A FLAT fire in Tipton which claimed the life of a man was started accidentally and involved a portable heater, it has been revealed.

On Sunday morning fire crews were called to the blaze at Jay's Avenue, in Dudley Port, where a man aged in his 50s died. Police were called to the scene at around 6.50am. Firefighters from Tipton and West Bromwich attended the blaze and managed to prevent the fire spreading to neighbouring homes.

An investigation is now under way.

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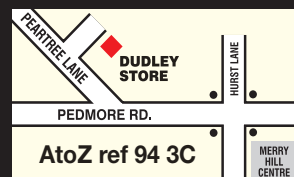
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Police blunders that led to 24 data breaches in year

LOSS of technology, misuse of systems and missing encrypted USB devices – those were among 24 data breaches by officers at West Midlands Police in one year.

The breaches over 2016 also included access requests to incorrect addresses and inappropriate disclosure. The latter was the most common incident within the force with seven cases. It can include things like wrongly releasing information to third parties such as personal details, sending information to the wrong people or even putting inappropriate things on social media.

Author brings ancient tales to the library

AN acclaimed author is giving a talk at Kingswinford Library tonight (Thursday).

Natalie Haynes will be at the library in Market Street to speak about her latest novel, *The Children of Jocasta*, at 7pm. Refreshments from 6.30pm.

Birmingham-born Natalie is a regular contributor to Radio 4, as well as appearing as a team captain on three seasons of *Wordaholics*.

The *Children of Jocasta* is the author's second novel. It follows *The Amber Fury* and *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life*.

Visitors will be able to ask questions following the talk and have their books signed by Natalie.

Tickets cost £2. All proceeds will go to the Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Libraries. Call (01384) 812740 for details about availability.

West Midlands Police have not provided any specifics on the circumstances surrounding their incidents.

There were five cases of 'loss of technology', four of missing USB sticks, three of using insecure emails and three of 'subject access requests' – people requesting what information is held about themselves – which were sent to the wrong address.

Activists

The other incidents included one breach of 'inaccurate information' and another of 'misuse of systems', of which no other details have been released at this stage.

Civil liberties group Big Brother Watch has said more needs to be done to tackle the number of data breaches. The group says it works 'to ensure that those who fail to respect our privacy, undermine our online security, or fail to protect our personal data, are held to account'.

Last year the privacy activists shone the spotlight on police forces by compiling the number of data breaches between 2011 and 2015, revealing West Midlands Police had committed more than double the number of any other in the period (488).

Steaming back in time at 1940s event



Anthony Broadhead of Wolverhampton, Glenn Taylor of Wombourne and Wayne from Bearwood

THE outcome of the Second World War hung in the balance over the weekend as dozens of people flocked to a special event recreating the 1940s.

Telford Steam Railway welcomed visitors from Wolverhampton, Wombourne, Brewood and Kingswinford as the Allies joined forces to beat the Germans.

The event took visitors back in time

and gave them a glimpse of the era, encompassing the Spring Village, Lawley and Horsehay & Dawley areas. Attractions included military re-enactments, entertainment from vintage-inspired The Blue Bird Belles, with American Jeeps on display and the chance for visitors to be transformed with hairstyles from 70 years ago.

The Bluebird Belles are a profes-

sional 1940s and vintage vocal harmony trio. The group, inspired by The Andrews Sisters and specialising in retro sounds from the 1920s right up to the present day, performed a variety of classic hits to the crowds.

An array of stalls sold vintage-style items. People sampled 40s culinary favourites, including Spam fritters, trench stew and other wartime foods.

1.8m votes 'wasted' in the election

ALMOST two million votes in the West Midlands failed to count towards the General Election result in June, according to new analysis from the Electoral Reform Society.

The campaign group said 1,845,299 votes in the region did not go towards electing the winner – 67 per cent of the overall vote.

Darren Hughes, newly-appointed Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society, said: "It is a scandal that millions of people's voices in the West Midlands were ignored in June's General Election."

Undemocratic

"Almost two million votes are being thrown on the electoral scrapheap in the region, under Westminster's broken first past the post voting system."

"At the same time, we see that almost one in five people are swapping parties in the West Midlands – an historically high rate – yet our old-fashioned voting system is failing to keep up. Voters across the region are being let down by the out-of-date and undemocratic way we cast our ballots for the Commons."

Mr Hughes, who was previously deputy chief executive, and a former New Zealand Minister and MP, took over at the helm last month.

Planning to make extensions easier

APPLYING for planning permission in Dudley is set to get easier, according to council chiefs.

Proposals due to get the green light later this month will see Dudley Council adopt a new local development order. This will allow people to obtain written consent for single or two-storey, rear or side extensions.

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Quote: JGRT

Your Chronicle in association with Just go!

<p>SCARBOROUGH, WHITBY & HISTORIC YORK* - TURKEY & TINSEL</p> <p>Mon 13 to Fri 17 Nov</p> <p>Your break includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 nights DBB at a selected hotel, Scarborough (incl. traditional 'Christmas' dinner) ✓ Tea, coffee and mince pies on arrival ✓ 99p bar on selected drinks (6pm-9pm) ✓ Entertainment every night ✓ Excursions to Whitby & Beverley ✓ Optional excursion to York (£7pp) ✓ Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge <p>* Excursions marked with an (*) within a tour title are optional and at an additional cost.</p> <p>5 Day Break was £189 now £179</p>	<p>ISLE OF WIGHT HOUSE PARTY</p> <p>Wed 8 to Sat 11 Nov</p> <p>Your break includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 nights DBB at the Holliers Hotel, Shanklin ✓ Happy hour before dinner every evening ✓ Entertainment on two nights ✓ Afternoon tea, coffee and cake on one day ✓ Afternoon bingo on one day ✓ Excursion to Godshill & Sandown ✓ Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge <p>4 Day Break was £169 now £159</p>	<p>BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS BREAK</p> <p>Wed 1 to Fri 3 Nov</p> <p>Your break includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 nights DBB at the Chequers Plaza Hotel, Blackpool ✓ Blackpool Illuminations evening drive ✓ Optional excursion to Southport (£6.00pp) ✓ Return coach travel from Halesowen <p>3 Day Break only £114.99</p>
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Growing business is clearly a favourite with its customers

Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local



Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured

using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood.

Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

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Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is too small or too large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.



Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

CONTACT US

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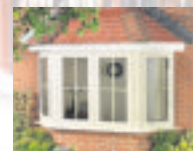
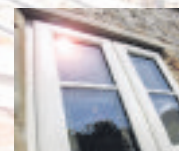
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From Ozzy, to Jimmy Page, to Phil Lynott, Mick Wall has met them all



Not so sweet, Jon Bon Jovi



Sharon and Ozzy, with his metal bolt



Legendary lothario, Phil Lynott



Led Zep during their beard-wearing stage, before Mick met Jimmy



Rick Parfitt, who loved his cars

Wall of rock spills beans on legends

So, what is it like to hang out with rock stars? Well, that depends on which rock star you happen to be hanging out with. In the case of Ozzy Osbourne, for example, it has always been very easy.

If you recall Ozzy from his hit TV reality show, The Osbournes, you'll have a good idea already. The main word is 'funny'. Ozzy is hilarious. He can't help it. He just is. A very dry sense of humour, delivered with that singsong Brummie accent.

From the first time I met Ozzy, at a rehearsal studio in London in 1980, down on his luck at the time after being sacked from Black Sabbath for being "too crazy" even for them, all I seemed to do was laugh. For years his wife Sharon and I used to joke that Ozzy should have his own comedy show on telly,



Legendary rock writer MICK WALL tells the Chronicle what it's like hanging out with legends such as Guns 'n' Roses, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Lou Reed as a preview to his spoken word evening at Bilston's Robin 2 in December.

never imagining that in the future such a thing as 'reality TV' would exist.

The last time I saw Ozzy was when he and Sabbath played in Birmingham earlier this year. Ozzy was staying in such an enormous hotel suite it came with its own butler. He hadn't changed one bit.

"Bloody hell, it's Mick!" he boomed across the vast space of his 'reception' room. "Come and feel the bolt in me neck!"

He was referring to the slab of surgical steel that now sits pinning his shoulder together, the result of his infamous quad bike accident. "Now I really am the godfather of heavy metal," he laughed. Not all rock stars are as good fun as Ozzy, though.

Some, like Jon Bon Jovi, are much more serious offstage than you would ever imagine from their upbeat image. I knew Jon before he got famous and he was like a kid in a sweet shop. Then after hits like 'Livin' On A Prayer' turned him into a superstar, he seemed to live life with a permanent frown on his face.

Then there are the deeply mysterious ones like Led Zeppelin's leader and guitarist Jimmy Page. On a visit to his mansion one day, Jimmy took me into a room where he sat in an armchair. Like some James Bond villain, he had a secret panel of buttons built into it.

Jimmy pushed one and the opposite wall slid back to reveal four massive oil paintings. "What do you make of these?" he asked, non-

chalantly. I walked over and had a closer look. All the paintings seemed to depict similar scenes. Some sort of lavishly depicted ancient garden in which there were tiny forms of hundreds of humans writhed in pain and torment.

"Very nice," I said with a straight face. Then he took me outside and showed me the garden. It was about the size of the West Midlands.

For most rock stars it really is all about girls and cars, though.

Phil and I would walk into a pub and he would tell me to grab a table and wait for him. I'd sit down while he stood at the bar, jacket collar up, stooped over looking glum. Within minutes a young woman would walk over and ask him what was wrong, why he was so down? Phil would sigh. Then another young woman, sometimes two or three would join him and want to know the same thing.

He would buy a tray of drinks and lead the girls over to the table where I was sitting. I would be expected to help keep the talk going while Phil would lead the girls outside one by one and, well, get to know them better.

When it comes to cars, it's hard to think

of any rock star I have known that has been more obsessed than the late Status Quo guitarist Rick Parfitt. He would ring me sometimes and hold his phone next to whatever new revving engine he'd just acquired - could be a brand new Porsche, or a vintage Rolls Royce. "Just listen to her purr," he'd say, almost purring himself. He'd soon grow bored with them though and go and buy another.

I recall one occasion when I visited him at his riverside home in London, and he took me to see his brand new Bentley Continental. He proudly showed me around the car, told me the whole story about how he was one of the first 50 people in the world to have one.

I rang him a couple of weeks later and asked how he was getting on with his new car.

"Oh, that," he said. "I sold it. Bought myself a brand new Merc." Or was it another Roller? I can't remember now. Whatever it was, it would definitely have purred though.

● Mick Wall presents his 'Wall Of Sound' at Bilston's Robin 2 on December 5 and tickets, priced £8, are available from www.therobin.co.uk or by calling (01902) 401211.

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X Factor's Diana has Look of Love

Diana Vickers, who found fame on X Factor, will recreate the magic of Dusty Springfield when she stars in Son of a Preacher Man at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to September 16.

The production tells the story of three broken hearts, one Soho hang-out, and the only man who could ever help them.

Diana was thrilled to be asked and announced the role on Instagram: "Very excited to announce I will be starring in the brand new stage show of Son of a Preacher Man."

"Very much looking forward to working with a great team on what I think will be a gem of a show! Hope to see some of you there."

Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood added: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue."

"I hope that audiences will come to love this warm-hearted and uplifting new musical as much as I do."

New Alexandra Theatre spokeswoman Fiona McCartney says: "Welcome to the Preacher Man, the swinging 1960s Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love, while the legendary owner, The Preacher Man himself, dispensed advice to cure the loneliest of hearts."

"Only, that was a long time ago and all that remains are the memories, the stories and the myths. Until now, that is, when three random strangers, generations apart but all in need of help with their hopeless love lives, are inexplicably drawn to the site of the original venue."

"The Preacher Man is long gone, but his son, with help from the wonderful Cappuccino Sisters, might just find it in himself to channel the spirit of The Preacher Man and once more give these three lovesick strangers the look of love."

ATTENTION

The play features the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, including The Look Of Love, I Only Want To Be With You, Spooky and the classic Son Of A Preacher Man.

Directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig, it stars Diana (Little Voice, Rocky Horror Show, X Factor), Debra Stephenson (The Impressions Show, Bad Girls, Coronation Street) and Ian Reddington (Benidorm, Shameless, Robin Hood).

Diana first came to the public's attention when she was a semi-finalist on the 2008 edition of X Factor. She hit the road with her fellow finalists after the show before landing a career in the West End.

She had been prepared for stardom by taking singing lessons as a youngster in Blackburn – though she didn't sing professionally until adulthood.

Her X Factor entry came about with a cover of Damien Rice's hit The Blower's Daughter, which dazzled Louis Walsh and Cheryl Cole among others. Simon Cowell described her as a Marmite artist – who he loved.

He later signed her to his label and her debut album, Songs from the Tainted Cherry Tree, later became a number one and earned her a gold disc.

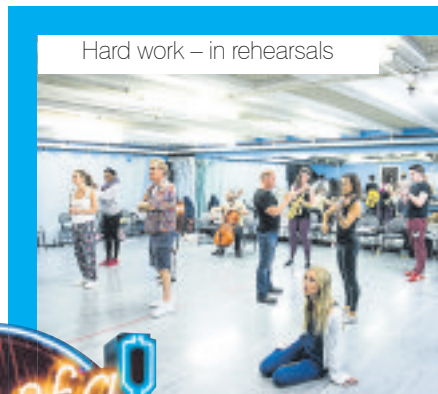
Gradually, the star also developed an acting career after starring in a newly-revived West End production of Jim Cartwright's The Rise and Fall of Little Voice in October 2009 at the Vaudeville Theatre, on The Strand, London.

She played a character called Little Voice, impersonating such singers as Shirley Bassey, Edith Piaf

Diana will bring the hits of Dusty Springfield back to life



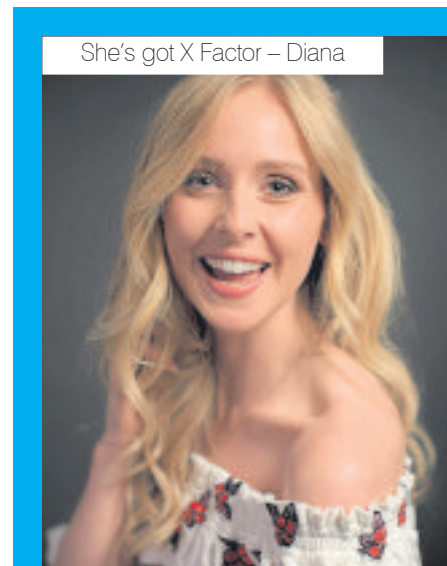
Hard work – in rehearsals



Star cast – Debra, Ian and Diana



She's got X Factor – Diana



and Judy Garland.

She also moved into the movies after landing a debut film role alongside Clint Eastwood's son in The Perfect Wave, which was about surfing and the power of life and death. Diana developed a fashion line, described as boho-chic and hippie-influenced, that was inspired by Brigitte Bardot and Marilyn Monroe. And she has remained busy ever since, combining her fashion dreams with roles in theatre.

Most recently, she played Janet in a touring production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. And there are plenty more roles that she'd like to play. She's a fan of Grease and would like to play Sandy. "I'd love to. Although Rizzo would be incredible, you'd rather be Rizzo wouldn't you, because she's just sexier? I like bad characters!"

Though she works formidably hard, Diana takes time out to switch off and relax. Her favourite hobby is reading and she gets sucked into a good book.

"I do a lot of baking when I'm stressed. And I love exercising, running, gym classes, yoga, interval training. Then just normal things like chilling with my friends, playing music loudly... and having a glass of wine after the show always helps!"

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

The Human League



1980s hit-makers are in a League of their own

One of the biggest British bands of the 1980s will be giving fans Electric Dreams when they perform at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday.

Synth pop legends The Human League will be in concert following a race meeting on September 9. The Sheffield new wave outfit, led by Phil Oakey and also featuring vocals from Joanne Catherall and Susan Ann Sulley, will play as part of The SunBets Music Live 2017 meeting at Dunstall's all-weather track.

The band, famed for their cross-Atlantic number one hit Don't You Want Me – which sold more than 20 million – will play their classic 1980s hits including Love Action, Mirror Man, Fascination and Human.

When the group played in the city in December 2014

at the Civic Hall, an Express & Star review of that gig hailed the group as 'modern pop music perfection'.

The Human League have returned to the area in recent years and they performed at Uttoxeter Racecourse last year, marking 35 years since the release of their best-selling album Dare!

Since 1978, the Human League have released nine studio albums, four EPs and 30 singles with Don't You Want Me entering the top 20 again just four years ago. Tickets to the event start from £35.95 with family tickets for £110. These can be bought directly from the racecourse by calling 01902 390 000 or online at the wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk website.

The flat racing takes place from 5.25 to 8.30pm with the concert held after the final race.

Dave is back on the home Beat



The Beat, featuring original co-frontman and singer Dave Wakeling, have a homecoming gig in Birmingham for the musician who now resides in Los Angeles.

The gig on Friday, September 15, part of a UK tour, is Wakeling's first in the city since the death of the original band's Birmingham-based veteran saxophonist Saxa.

Wakeling has been putting the finishing touches to his first studio album under The Beat moniker since Special Beat Service in

1982. Tentatively titled Here We Go Love, it's an album of uplifting ska rhythms, infectious pop hooks and some Californian sunshine which reflects Wakeling's adopted home.

The Beat exploded out of Brum in 1979 as part of the same ska/rock/reggae scene that launched The Specials and UB40. Dave Wakeling enjoyed further success in the States with supergroup General Public and released a solo album No Warning in 1991.

Wakeling has played an estimated thousand shows as the frontman of The English Beat, most in the USA where he continues to command a devoted audience.

Straddling 2 Tone and post-punk, The Beat had a host of hits – including Mirror In The Bathroom, Too Nice To Talk To, Hands Off She's Mine and hit covers of Tears Of A Clown and Can't Get Used To Losing You.

For tickets to see Wakeling's seven-piece incarnation of The Beat at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2, supported by Frantic Action and Ruder Than U, see academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/ website.

Another version of The Beat, featuring Ranking Roger, are touring with The Selecter.

Whip smart play is domestic drama

A powerful play about privilege, power and how the past can affect the present is being staged at Birmingham Rep's venue The Door.

The Whip Hand by Scottish playwright Douglas Maxwell is a domestic drama set in Glasgow. When Dougie chooses his 50th birthday party to right an old wrong, it causes a family rift. With Jonathan Watson, from TV sit-com Two Doors Down, as Dougie, The Whip Hand runs at The Door until next Saturday, September 16.



Marvelettes time for Tamla Motown fans

Motown legends The Marvelettes are coming to the Black Country. Soul enthusiast and Northern Soul DJ Hitsville Chalky is bringing the 1960s girl group over from Detroit for a concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Friday, September 15.

The Marvelettes, who were actually signed to Tamla until that merged with sister label Motown, had one of the label's first US hits with chart-topper Please Mr Postman and had a UK hit with When You're Young And In Love.

The group features original member Katherine Anderson. There will also be DJ sets from Hitsville Chalky, Gary Parker and Catcombs legend Pep. For tickets see tickets.bhllcivic.co.uk/boxoffice/book/1056 or call 01384 573381.

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Radzi Chinyanganya

Cannonball (ITV, 7pm)
Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves 'cannonball-style' at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's 'priceless' Cannonball Cup. Frankie Bridge, Radzi Chinyanganya, Ryan Hand and Maya Jama all join Andrew at the poolside to commentate on the action.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadia's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Great North CityGames. Gabby Logan presents coverage from the Newcastle Gateshead Quayside. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. **6.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Ruth Badger, Solomon Aiktar, Carl Fogarty, Jimmy Bullard, Craig Phillips, Nikki Grahame, Jamie Laing and Alex Mytton compete in a reality TV-themed edition. (R) **7.00** **Strictly Come Dancing Launch Show 2017.** New series. The pro-celebrity ballroom contest returns, with an opening spectacular featuring last year's champions Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton performing their winning routine, plus music from Shania Twain and Rita Ora. The line-up of this year features former Holby City star Chizzy Akudolu, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks alumnus Gemma Atkinson, 2008 X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, TV and radio comedy star Susan Calman, Radio 4 broadcaster the Rev Richard Coles, TV presenter Brian Conley, EastEnders' Davood Ghadami (Kush Kazemi), Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins and The Saturdays' singer Mollie King. Also reading the boards are This Morning's Ruth Langford, Holby City actor Joe McFadden, JLS's Aston Merrygold, Paralympian Jonnie Peacock, TV chef Simon Rimmer, and Debbie McGee, whose late husband and performing partner Paul Daniels previously took to the dancefloor in 2010. This year, the "Queen of Latin" Shirley Ballas will be replacing Len Goodman on the judges' panel, with Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell all returning to appraise the talents of the amateur dancers and their professional partners. **8.40** BBC News: Weather. **9.00** **Last Night of the Proms.** **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest top-flight matches. **11.55** **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world. **12.25** **Film:** The Rookie. (2002) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.15 How We Won the War. (R) **6.45** The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. (R) **7.45** **Film:** Vivacious Lady. (1938) **9.15** **Film:** The Fox and the Child. (2007) **10.45** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Coast Australia. (R) **1.50** **Film:** Emma. (1996) Jane Austen drama, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. **3.45** Mastermind. (R) **4.15** University Challenge. (R) **4.45** Only Connect. (R) **5.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.15** **The Big Family Cooking Showdown.** Culinary competition hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain in which two families face a series of challenges based on the realities of everyday meals. (R) **7.15** **Last Night of the Proms.** Katie Derham presents live from London's Royal Albert Hall, where the BBC Proms' signature Last Night concert gets under way. Conductor Sakari Oramo leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus this evening, as they accompany soprano Nina Stemme in a performance of music from Wagner's Tristan and Isolde. The ensemble celebrates 100 years of Finnish independence with renditions of Sibelius's Finlandia and Kodaly's Budapesti Te Deum, with help from soprano Lucy Crowe, mezzo Christine Rice, tenor Ben Johnson and bass John Relyea. Also featuring this evening is the premiere of Finnish composer Lotta Wennakoski's Flourence, and a performance of Malcolm Sargent's An Impression on a Windy Day. **9.00** **Film:** X-Y. (2014) Premiere. A specially awkward teenager finds it difficult to communicate with people, but finds comfort in his passion for numbers. However, while training to take part in the forthcoming International Mathematical Olympiad, he finds love with a kindred spirit. Comedy drama, starring Asa Butterfield, Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins. **10.45** **Film:** What Women Want. (2000) A womanising executive gets a new insight into life when he accidentally gains the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Romantic comedy, with Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. **12.45** **Film:** Miss Bala. (2011) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars. The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Haydock. Coverage of this afternoon's meetings at Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **The Family Chase.** Bradley Walsh hosts a family-themed edition of the game show. The French family from Wiltshire pit their general-knowledge know-how against that of professional quizzers. **7.00** **Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves "cannonball-style" at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's "priceless" Cannonball Cup. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents as the nationwide talent contest continues apace in the third rounds of auditions. Another selection of would-be stars submit themselves for approval by uncompromising resident judges Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell. **9.15** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.35** **Film:** United 93. (2006) Fact-based drama about the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks, which was stopped from reaching its target by the passengers. With Christian Clemenson and Trish Gates. **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.35** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Big House, Little House. **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R). **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Shakespeare's Tomb.** Documentary charting a two-year-long archaeological investigation of William Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. The grave itself bears a curse condemning anyone who disturbs the Bard's final resting place, reading "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear/To dig the dust enclosed here/Blessed be the man that spares the stones/And cursed be he that moves my bones". For the first time since Shakespeare's death 400 years ago, the church has authorised archaeologists to conduct a study on the site, giving Kevin Colls of Staffordshire University, leading geophysicist Erica Utsi, and Cambridge historian Dr Helen Castor a chance to utilise state-of-the-art radar technology to build up a picture of what lies beneath the surface without disturbing the hallowed site. As the team reveals, the results of their examination contained a few unexpected surprises. (R) **8.00** **Great Canal Journeys: India.** Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Brahmaputra river, where they follow an old trade route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant. (R) **9.00** **Film: X-Men: First Class.** (2011) Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence. **11.40** **Film: The Tourist.** (2010) Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie. **1.25** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** The State. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Steve are sent to north London to evict a young Romanian mother who owes £6,000 in unpaid rent, but when they arrive, they discover a family home that is not quite what it appears to be. Meanwhile, in Kent, Brian and Alan turn up the pressure on a debtor who has admitted to owing more than £7,000, but claims he cannot afford to pay up – despite having a garage full of expensive tools. Later, in south-west London, Brian accompanies Delroy as he tries to recover a £400,000 debt from a residential property, and when the pair trace the defaulter to an upmarket cafe, the man in charge lies about his identity. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v West Indies. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day of the Third Test, which took place at Lord's. **8.00** **The Great Fire: London Burns.** Dan Jones, Suzannah Lipscomb and Rob Bell take a look at the Great Fire of London by walking the route the fire took across the city, hour-by-hour and street-by-street. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Fulham v Cardiff City and Sunderland v Sheffield United. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Portsmouth and Rotherham United v Bury. **10.30** Hijacked. **11.30** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **11.55** **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip. (R) **12.10** SuperCasio. **3.10** Exploding Sun. **4.40** Access.

DIGITAL

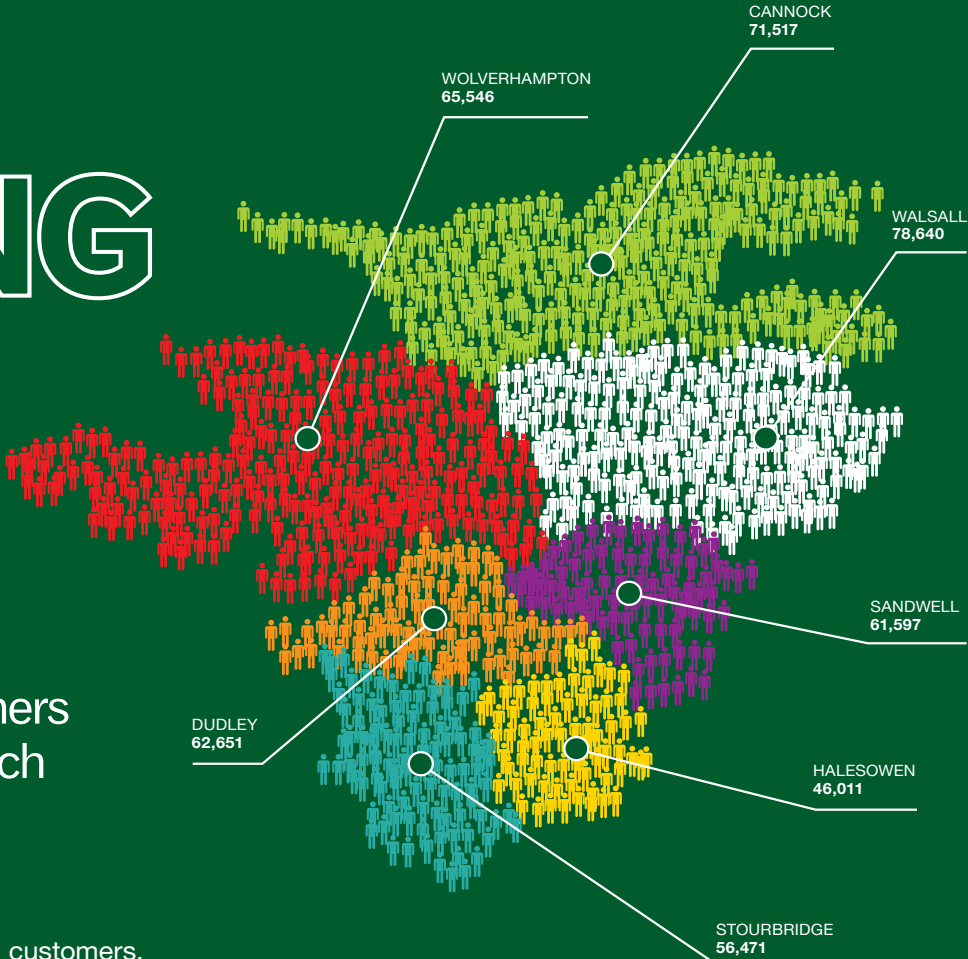
BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.30** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **12.30** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **1.30** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close **ITV2**
11.20 The X Factor **12.20** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Talent **2.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50** **Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** **Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.45** **Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** **Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **6.50** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** **Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** **Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.55** **Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **3.00** Teleshopping **ITV3**
11.10 **Film:** The Secret Garden (1993) **11.15** **Film:** The Secret Garden (1993) **12.15** **Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.20** Teleshopping **ITV4**
3.30 Quincy ME **4.30** The Professionals **5.35** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Best of Jarrod and Brand **6.30** Storage Wars: Best of Darrell and Brandon **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** **Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** **Film:** Double Jeopardy (1999) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film:** Double Jeopardy (1999) **1.30** Minder **2.25** Tommy Cooper **E4**
11.30 **Film:** The Tiger Movie (2000) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Naked Attraction **Film4**
11.00 Destry Rides Again (1939) **1.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **2.50** Marmaduke (2010) **4.35** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **6.20** Seven Years in Tibet (1997) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Shut In (2015) **1.00** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **3.05** Close

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CHOICE



All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop (Channel 5, 9pm)
A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.05 Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.30** Great North Run. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the half-marathon that runs from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, with approximately 57,000 runners set to take part this time around. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Film: Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison presents the show from Cornwall's Rame Peninsula, revealing the story of the area's last fisherman, who continues to use the traditional methods of his forefathers and is and is passing his skills on to disadvantaged youngsters. Plus, Tom Heap goes in search of Britain's traditional craftsmen and women. **8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the history of two pictures, both of which are believed to be by Paul Gauguin, one of the giants of 19th-century art. **9.00** **Strike – The Silkworm.** Part one of a two-part adaptation of the second of JK Rowling's detective novels featuring private eye Cormoran Strike. The detective is hired by the wife of a notorious author to find her missing husband, only to discover the writer has been murdered in a manner remarkably similar to a scene in one of his books. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Newcastle United at the Liberty Stadium and Burnley v Crystal Palace at Turf Moor. **11.30** **People Just Do Nothing.** Steves kidnaps one of the KOLD FM team, driving Grindah to arrange a showdown with his rivals. Miche takes Angela's role in the school play a little too seriously. **12.00** **Film: The Rebound.** (2009) Romantic comedy starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Justin Bartha. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** The Hair Bikers: Northern Exposure. (R) **11.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Film: Grand Prix. (1966) Motor racing drama, starring James Garner. **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **Great North Run Highlights.** Ore Oduba presents action from the half-marathon that ran from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, as Vivian Cheruiyot attempted to retain her title in the women's elite race. With commentary from Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter and Paula Radcliffe, and reports by JJ Chalmers, Denise Lewis and Colin Jackson. **7.00** **Tribes. Predators & Me.** Gordon Buchanan sets out to gain a new understanding of fierce predators by meeting different tribes that hunt and live alongside them. He begins on Owari in the Solomon Islands, where the local men encounter dangerous sharks almost every day, even swimming alongside them as they feed for the fish they need to survive. (R) **8.00** **Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The remaining candidates head to a secret facility in Sweden, where they are deliberately deprived of oxygen to see if they can recognise the signs of hypoxia. **9.00** **Dragons' Den.** The panel assess the profit-making potential of business plans involving beach towels, a range of novelty plush goods, and a form of packaging based around air. **10.00** **Best Album 2017: Meet the Mercury Prize Nominees.** Documentary previewing the shortlisted artists for 2017, hearing from musicians from the vanguard of grime, performance poetry and guitar rock. **10.30** **Film: Broken.** (2012) An 11-year-old girl witnesses a man being attacked by her neighbour, which destroys her innocent outlook on life. Drama, with Eloise Laurence, Tim Roth and Cillian Murphy. **11.55** **Film: False Trail.** (2011) Mystery, with Rolf Lassgord. (R) **2.55** Holby City. (R) **3.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** The Chase. (R) **11.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.00** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. **3.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Victoria. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.40** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **Tippling Point: Lucky Stars.** Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Julian Clary, Sara Cox and Alan Halsall answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. **7.00** **Coronation Street.** Anna discovers Faye's plan to run away with Seb, family secrets threaten Peter and Toyah's future, and a frightened Rita has a go at Norris. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the fourth rounds of auditions, as more would-be stars perform for Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell. **9.00** **Victoria.** The queen is moved by the plight of a silk weaver in Spitalfields, and decides to throw a lavish medieval ball at the palace to help, with all attendees wearing outfits made in the area. Albert has his doubts about the plan, but finds himself seduced by the grandeur of the event. However, while the evening proves a success, reuniting old friends and creating new romances, it is greeted with outrage by the discontented public. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** **Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** Barrister Robert Rinder examines the case of Gary Nelson, who murdered a bouncer and a community police officer, and was the subject of a 13-year investigation. (R) **11.205** Gold Rings. (R) **12.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Last Man Standing. **6.25** Last Man Standing. **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Film: The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **4.20** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.25** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **6.40** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year.** George Clarke presents the entries in the Historic and Workshops and Studios categories. Among the finalists in these areas are a shed where a bestselling trilogy of novels were written and a build in Wales used for making prosthetic limbs for children around the world. **8.00** **From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier.** Levison Wood completes the last 1000 miles of his journey, travelling through Armenia and the Republic of Iran as he heads for the shores of the Caspian Sea. He meets a photojournalist documenting the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan for the contested state of Nagorno-Karabakh, and risks heading to the front line, where he meets a family caught in the crossfire and soldiers serving in the trenches. He also visits one of the world's largest salt lakes and joins a biker gang for a tour of Tehran. Last in the series. **9.00** **Film: Kingsman: The Secret Service.** (2015) Premiere. A streetwise teenager is taken under the wing of his dead father's old colleague, an agent working for a super-secret spy organisation. Will the youngster prove to be a chip off the old block by proving useful during a battle against a twisted, hi-tech genius? Action comedy based on a comic book, starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Samuel L. Jackson. **11.35** **Film: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For.** (2014) Compilation of four stories of crime and betrayal set in a dangerous city. Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke. **1.25** Bruce Springsteen: In His Words. (R) **2.50** Gillette World Sport. **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wipper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **1.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **2.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **3.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **6.05** **All New Traffic Cops.** Officers from the West Yorkshire Safer Roads team pursue a disqualified driver through Bradford, while a pensioner is knocked down in a hit-and-run incident in York. (R) **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v West Indies. **8.00** **Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce highlights from the second weekend of matches, including Northampton Saints v Leicester Tigers at Franklin's Gardens. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** **All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop.** A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow. **11.55** **The Last Hours of Elvis Presley.** Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd re-examines the medical evidence relating to the death of the American singer, who died in August 1977 at the age of 42. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Liberace: In Life and Death. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Making of King Arthur **8.00** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **9.00** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The 21st Century Race for Space **11.30** Horizon: Can We Make a Star on Earth? **12.30** Precision: The Measure of All Things **1.30** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **2.30** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **3.30** Close **ITV2**
11.10 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.50** The X Factor **1.05** Take Me Out **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.25** FYI: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 NightScreen **ITV3**
12.25 Wycliffe **1.30** Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.05** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Foyle's War **ITV4**
4.00 Pawn Stars **5.00** Film: The Pink Panther (1963) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05** Film: The Pink Panther (1963) **7.30** River Monsters **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05** Film: United 93 (2006) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: United 93 (2006) **1.15** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **2.15** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **2.15** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **3.10** Liberace: In Life and Death. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Liberace: In Life and Death. (R)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Frozen Ground, Channel 5, 11.05pm
An Alaska state trooper tries to bring a serial killer who has been terrorising the Anchorage area for 13 years to justice. When a woman escapes the maniac's clutches, the lawman seeks her help in identifying him, but finds he will have a hard time earning her trust. Fact-based crime drama, with Nicolas Cage, John Cusack and Vanessa Hudgens. (2013)

TUESDAY
A Wife's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman who has just recovered from a mental breakdown returns home to pick up the pieces of her life – but her plans are thrown into disarray when a teenage girl claiming to be her husband's long-lost daughter arrives on her doorstep. Drama based on a true story, starring Jennifer Beals. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)



Rogue, Friday, BBC1, 12.05am

THURSDAY
Boyfriend Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A grieving mother goes through her dead son's social media accounts to salvage any photos and let his friends know of his death. But when she finds some messages between him and his vindictive girlfriend, she begins to suspect the young woman may have been involved in his death. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro, Patrick Muldoon and Kate Mansi. (2017)

FRIDAY
Rogue, BBC1, 12.05am
A captain taking a group of tourists on a trip through the Australian Outback is persuaded to travel into uncharted part of the river. The travellers then discover they have strayed into the territory of a ferocious crocodile and face a battle for survival. Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell. (2007)

Duo are caught up in a web of intrigue in new series

Typical – you wait months for a new six-part series from Jack and Harry Williams, the writers and creators of *The Missing*, and then two come along at once.

Yes, on the same evening that BBC1 launches *Rellik* (killer spelled backwards, in case you were wondering), ITV brings us *Liar*. At first glance, the Beeb's series bears more of the Williams' hallmarks – just as *The Missing* played out across different timelines, *Rellik* starts with capture of a serial killer, and then goes back to the beginning to explore what made them into a murderer.

However, *Liar* has a simpler idea, which was part of the plan. The Williams siblings say: "We were excited about exploring something with more dramatic simplicity – a linear story focusing on one single incident."

"In *Liar* we sought to explore modern day gender politics through a narrative built upon two fundamentally conflicting recollections of one night, in a way which we hope will challenge and surprise audiences."

If that wasn't intriguing enough, the series also boasts an impressive cast, including *Downton Abbey*'s Joanne Froggatt and one-time *Fantastic Four* star Ioan Gruffudd, who was tempted back from Hollywood to tackle his role in *Liar*.

He says: "The reason I'm back home in the UK, and back on British television for the first time in a decade is Harry and Jack's script. I received their scripts in LA, the first three episodes, and sat down to read the first one and then proceeded to read all of them in one go. I just couldn't put them down."

He stars as Andrew Earlam, a widowed surgeon who is set up on a date with his colleague's sister Laura (Froggatt), who also happens to be Andrew's son's teacher. She's been reluctant to look for love following the end of her long-term relationship, but their date initially seems to go very well. However, the morning after it's

clear that something has changed as gossip and accusations begin to circulate, and the two find themselves drawn into a web of deceit.

Gruffudd says: "When Andrew is accused it offends him greatly, his status in the community is very important to him. He's a very proud of what he has achieved, and I think it shakes him to his core, he's angry, and he's shocked. I think one of the driving forces of his anger is the fact that how he is perceived by the world has changed, and I think that really makes him angry."

But is he right to feel aggrieved? It seems that getting to the truth is not going to be easy. Gruffudd says: "Every character in the show has secrets that are revealed at some point or another. We all hide things from one another, we all tell white lies, innocent lies, and sometimes those lies can be exaggerated and can have real consequences. So, not every person in the series is who they are cracked up to be..."



Ioan Gruffudd stars in *Liar*, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Upstart Crow, BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. Will is desperate to make a good impression with the College of Heralds so he can get his family a coat of arms and finally make the Shakespeares posh. So when African royal Prince Otello comes to town, the aspiring playwright decides that befriending him is the perfect opportunity to make a favourable impression amongst the gentry. David Mitchell returns as William Shakespeare in Ben Elton's comedy, guest starring Steve Toussaint, with Harry Enfield, Paula Wilcox, Liza Tarbuck and Mark Heap.

WEDNESDAY
The Other One, BBC2, 10pm
A comedy about two sisters who share the same name, Catherine Walcott, but had no idea the other existed until their father passed away. One sister, Cathy, has a fiancée, a Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a pension. The other sister, Cat, has a pay-as-you-go phone. The two sisters are complete opposites in every way, and the only thing they seem to have in common are their names. Both of them have always longed for a sister – just maybe not each other. Starring Ellie White, Lauren Socha and Rebecca Front.

THURSDAY
No Limits: Vietnam, BBC1, 8pm
For the curious with long memories, this is not a revival of the old Lisa Maxwell/Jenny Powell entertainment series from 30-plus years ago. Instead, it centres on six Britons who embark on an ambitious road trip by modified motorbike and modified 4x4 along Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Trail. A tricky enough trek for the able



Comedy Playhouse: Static, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

bodied, but as everyone on the journey is disabled, travelling almost 1,000 miles, through traffic-jammed cities to mountainous rural tracks pushes our ambitious travellers to breaking point. They will be staying with remote indigenous people; exploring stunning cave systems, and meeting locals - many of who live with disability courtesy of the Vietnam War. A refreshingly different travelogue which should inspire millions.

Lego Masters, Channel 4, 8pm
The three remaining teams are challenged to create a build that reflects the inner workings of a child's storytelling imagination. They must each listen to a six-year old's story and then have three hours to bring their tales to life using Lego. The best two then take part in the final master build, for which they have two weeks to realise a structure measuring 2x2

metres and using up to half-a-million bricks. They will be unveiled to the public at the Design Museum in London, where comedian and Lego enthusiast Dara O Briain joins Matthew Ashton to choose the winner. Last in the series.

FRIDAY
Cold Feet, ITV, 9pm
Baby-making miscommunication drives a wedge between Adam and Tina, while Karen's new business partner is concerned by the health of her accounts. Jenny inadvertently drops her colleagues in it when she tells her boss they could afford to lose a few employees. She will get to choose who makes the cut, but back home Pete is horrified by her behaviour and begins to wonder just what he has unleashed. Comedy drama, starring James Nesbitt, Leanne Best, Hermione Norris, John Thomson, Fay Ripley and Robert Bathurst.

Comedy Playhouse: Static, BBC1, 10.35pm
One-off sitcom about a man who makes plans to move back in with his parents – only to find they have sold the house and moved to a static caravan park in Margate. Co-written by and starring Rob Beckett, with Alison Steadman and Phil Davis.

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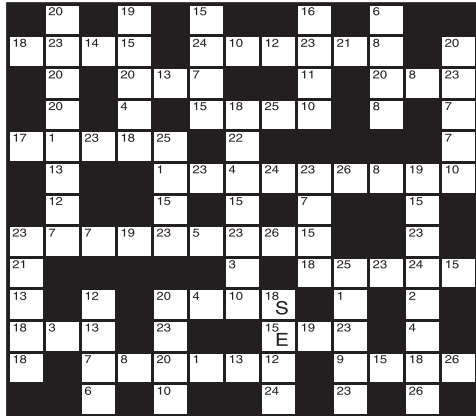


BRAIN GYM

No.446

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	M	H	E	U	T	G	W	K	Q	Y	L	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	A	S	P	D	J	V	O	Z	C	X	N	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

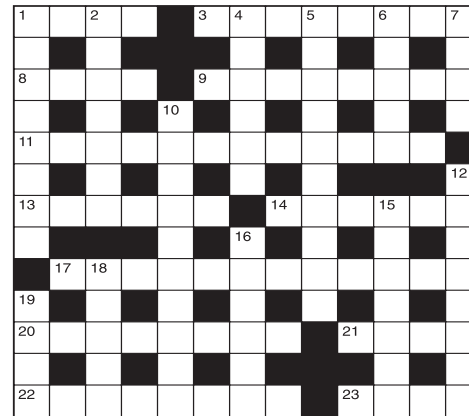
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A blow on the wrist, perhaps (4)
3. Cheers ironically when soldiers' quarters are seen (8)
8. Paper appearing again in the morning (4)
9. Crop made to be set beside others (8)
11. Bury part at the crossing (12)
13. A doctor with one foot loose (6)
14. Stagger on the street in a leisurely walk (6)
17. Study not permanent at the same time (12)
20. It's a disadvantage to lure a defender out (8)
21. Ancient Queen who achieved nothing (4)
22. Feeling that makes one hand on? (8)
23. Where the responsibility lies? (4)

Down

1. Church dignitary has vehicle to take Linda out (8)
2. Praise insincerely when some of the sparkle lost? (7)
4. Loves to read so (6)
5. Solicit again for a second occurrence (10)
6. The vehicle is to leave with freight (5)
7. The team has a pretentious air (4)
10. It's lucrative for those who are healthy and skilled (10)
12. Pleasure-loving youths in the theatre? (8)
15. Ivan, too, gets enthusiastic applause (7)
16. Hits fishing vessels (6)
18. Examinations in which results are poor also (5)
19. Poetry does, in a way (4)



Quick Clues:

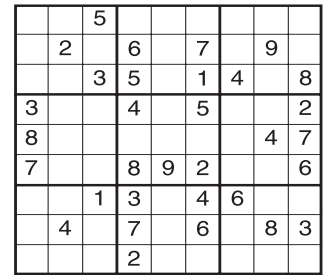
Across

1. Bucket (4)
3. Souvenir (8)
8. Plunder (4)
9. Stick out (8)
11. Teach thoroughly (12)
13. Very hot (6)
14. Smirk (6)
17. Good spirits (12)
20. Respite (8)
21. Equitable (4)
22. Uninhabited (8)
23. Otherwise (4)

Down

1. Mollify (8)
2. Fit for use (2,5)
4. Mistakes (6)
5. Impalpable (10)
6. Scepticism (5)
7. Smoke (4)
10. Fortuitous (10)
12. Keep (8)
15. Overcome (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. Obeys (5)
19. Retired (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

2	5	9	7	6	1	8	4	3
7	8	4	5	3	2	9	6	1
1	3	6	4	8	9	7	2	5
4	9	5	2	1	6	3	8	7
8	1	2	3	9	7	6	5	4
3	6	7	8	5	4	1	9	2
6	4	8	1	2	3	5	7	9
9	2	3	6	7	5	4	1	8
5	7	1	9	4	8	2	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Masterpiece; 9 Trips up; 10 Awash; 11 Theta; 12 Sweater; 13 Poster; 15 Sparse; 18 Perches; 20 Aorta; 22 Rated; 23 Expound; 24 Threatening. Down: 2 Amine; 3 Testate; 4 Repose; 5 Image; 6 Chapter; 7 State papers; 8 Chargehands; 14 Scratch; 16 Playpen; 17 Ascend; 19 Hedge; 21 Rouen.
QUICK - Across: 1 Fashionable; 9 Riddled; 10 Outrage; 11 Panic; 12 Teacher; 13 Neatly; 15 Status; 18 Unaware; 20 Put on; 22 Trend; 23 Diocese; 24 Predominate. Down: 2 Add on; 3 Helical; 4 Oddity; 5 Aroma; 6 Latchet; 7 Propinquity; 8 Represented; 14 Amateur; 16 Typhoon; 17 Seldom; 19 Aided; 21 Treat.

Quiz

1. Which actor married ex-Pan's People dancer Babs Lord in 1975?
2. To which family of fish does the bream belong?
3. In which year did China's elder statesman Deng Xiaoping die?
4. How many symphonies did Brahms write?
5. What is another name for common heather?
6. How many ares are there in a hectare?
7. Which Kirov Ballet star defected in 1970?
8. Which Royal residence was rebuilt by John Nash in 1821-36?
9. Which Verdi opera is based on the Dumas novel The Lady of the Camellias?
10. What was J Arthur Rank's first name?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Eucharist; 2 Fez; 3 One pound coin; 4 Saccharin; 5 Peter Cook; 6 Master of the King's Musick; 7 Brandy; 8 Bratislava; 9 Berkshire; 10 Heidi.
Niner: NURSEMAID

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

648496254
377657
4961

gives a creepy crawlly,
gives a second creepy crawlly,
gives creepy crawlies.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Finnish off with Moomin magic

TOSSED between clawing waves with only a wooden oar and magician's top hat, Moominpappa embarks on a whimsical journey to find a distant lighthouse.

It's 34 years since I read the story of a snouty patriarch who frolics with seahorses and befriends The Groke, a desperately lonely figure scarred with a permanent scowl, who turns ground to ice wherever she treads.

But I do recall a handwritten inscription in my copy of Moominpappa At Sea, promising the Moomins would take me on a special adventure one day.

Now I'm standing in front of a first edition illustrated book sleeve, part of a 2,000-strong collection of drawings, triptychs and related paraphernalia on rotated display at the world's only Moomin Museum, which recently opened in Tampere, a two-hour train ride north from Helsinki.

PHENOMENON

Since Finnish artist, sculptor and illustrator Tove Jansson published her first book in 1945, the magical Moominvalley has become a worldwide cult phenomenon; children are drawn to the playful, fanciful characters, while the droll humour and philosophical allegories resonate with an older audience.

Tove's Moomin work was donated to the Tampere Art Museum in 1986, after Helsinki City Museum declined the collection on the basis it wasn't 'proper art'. A temporary exhibition of 100 pieces in the Tampere gallery's basement lasted for three decades, until structural damage resulted in an evacuation three years ago.

Moomin Museum Director Taina Myllyharju was given an 'almost unlimited' budget to employ the best architects, artists and designers in her quest for creating

Visitors to the impressive Helsinki Cathedral



The Rauhaniemi public sauna in Tampere



a new space in the park-fringed Tampere Hall.

A reading library stocks the 12 Moomin books in multiple languages, and a shop sells themed postcards and stamps (conveniently, there's a postbox on site) and exclusive merchandise given the seal of approval by Tove's niece, Sophia Jansson.

"We even have the world's only Moomin conservator," Taina proudly proclaims.

Restoring the works, particularly the detailed triptychs Tove worked on with her life partner, graphic artist Tuulikki Pietila, was a painstaking business. Often, the

women would use anything they could find lying around in the summer cottage they shared on remote island Klovharu. These colourful 3D scenes were ephemeral snatches of imagination; they weren't designed to last.

Crossing a wasteland on spindly, insect-leg stilts, Moomintroll and Sniff stare up at a cobweb-shrouded model schooner. The Jansson family heirloom forms the centrepiece of a tableau from the apocalyptic Comet in Moominland, which critics have linked to post-war gloom and the looming spectre of nuclear attacks.

And in another carefully crafted model, pieces of

Pietila's and Tove's own jewellery festoon a winter scene where Christmas is a fearful creature who must be appeased with a fir tree.

I get the impression that with every seashell collected and each piece of Styrofoam painted and glued, the two artists climbed further into their fantasy world and the act of doing became a form of escapism.

Under the cover of darkness, I comfortably sink into the Moomin's make-believe world, with the help of several interactive displays

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 7, 2017

Attractive and spacious detached family home

An attractive and spacious four-bedroomed detached family home, 17, Mansion Close, Earls Keep, Dudley, is for sale through Taylors at £258,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the home comes with an integral garage and lies on a fine corner plot fine corner plot upon the favoured 'Earls Keep' development, where properties of this category are rarely made available.

The property has been significantly upgraded by present vendor with a stylish refitted kitchen (with a matching utility section), a re-appointed cloakroom/WC, a bathroom and a shower room en-suite.

There is also a resurfaced driveway (with brick edging detailing) and a secluded rear garden and a chipped slate border to side.

The elegant lounge has a bay window, an 'antique pine' over mantle to a cast grate with polished highlights and 'Art Deco' tiled cheeks on a black marble effect. It also has engineered oak flooring and double doors through to the dining room, which in turn has French doors opening out to the garden, and again engineered oak flooring.

The refitted kitchen has inset chrome finish down-lighters to the ceiling, an extensive range of 'satin cream' finish wall and base units with grey roll edge work surfaces, an integrated four ring hob with a fan assisted electric oven below and a glass/stainless steel filter hood above. There is also an integrated dishwasher and tiled flooring. The utility section has matching 'satin cream' finish base units, tiled splash-backs and plumbing for a washing machine.

Bedroom one overlooks the front and has double built-in wardrobes and a re-appointed shower room en-suite with a white contemporary suite.

Bedroom two is I-shaped and also has views over the front. It has dormer-style windows and a double built-in wardrobe.

Bedrooms three and four have views overlooking the rear garden.

The reappointed/part tiled bathroom includes chrome finished down-lighters, a chrome finish heated towel rail and a white contemporary style suite with chrome detailing.

DUDLEY £258,000



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KEY FEATURES

Spacious detached

4 bedrooms

Corner plot position

Significantly upgraded

New kitchen, utility, bathroom & en-suite



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SEDGLEY, Gospel End Road

Enviably situated on corner plot in favoured district adjacent to open fields & with good distant views; an appreciably SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family residence offering TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, cloakroom, 19' through lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry, gallery landing, FOUR bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens to front, side & rear, Double garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Catholic Lane

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS WITH SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL - Distinctive, 1950's 'bespoke' gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family residence set in extensive gardens in prestigious district with far reaching views. Offering a rare opportunity the accommodation presently provides; entrance vestibule, 23'3" reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, stores. To first floor are two further double bedrooms with wardrobes. Detached garage, landscaped gardens (in need of attention), Unique opportunity!. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, part double glazed 3/4 bedroom detached constructed in 'Arts and Crafts style' with CONSERVATORY & magnificent grounds. Benefitting from extension (office/relative suite with entrance) comprising; hall, cloakroom, sitting room, through living/dining room, vestibule, conservatory, kitchen, utility room. Two bedrooms, bathroom; entrance vestibule with cloak & further staircase to first floor with office/bedroom 3 & shower room. Garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £360,000

Offers in the region of £350,000

Offers in the region of £325,000



TIPTON, Castle Road

EXTENDED, SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed (UPVC double glazed casements to the rear) Detached in tree-lined road comprising; Porch/Hall, Sitting Room, enlarged 20 Dining Room, stylish Kitchen and large double glazed 19' CONSERVATORY; FOUR BEDROOMS (Principal Bedroom with Shower Room En-Suite), Bathroom, lengthy garden with workroom. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.



WOMBOURNE, Banbery Drive

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached that has been transformed by present vendors & comprising; hall, cloak cupboard, extended 27ft living/dining room, extended & recently REFITTED 18ft breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'high gloss cream' units. Three bedrooms, study, bathroom, Shortened garage, utility room, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY.



KINGSWINFORD, Kendall Rise

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE SECLUDED REAR GARDEN, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, GENEROUS layout, including THREE LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (may split to create four/ five bedroom layout if desired). With full width block paved driveway and includes a LARGE GARAGE. EPC: E



LOWER GORNAL, Cotwall End Road

Overlooking open fields! and occupying a sweeping corner plot this DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW offers huge potential for improvement; with central heating and double glazing this property offers entrance porch, reception hall, living room, sitting area, breakfast-kitchen, TWO/THREE BEDROOMS, utility, shower room, work shop, garage, front and rear gardens and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: E SEDGLEY.



UPPER GORNAL, Vale Street

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT! Construction has now commenced on a gas centrally heated, double glazed DETACHED BUNGALOW, short walk from major bus routes with the accommodation to include; hall, store, lounge/dining room (patio doors out to garden), kitchen (with various integrated appliances) two bedrooms (one with built in wardrobes), bathroom, garage, parking for 2 vehicles, garden. Plans available (by appointment) - at Sedgley Office. SAP: TBA

Offers in the region of £225,000

New price WAS £228,750, NOW £225,000

No upward chain £219,950

Offers in the region of £214,950

Offers in the region of £210,000



DUDLEY, Fairview Road

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING! Sympathetically restored/upgraded detached Edwardian residence on corner plot convenient for Milking Bank & presented in exemplary order throughout the gas centrally heated, double glazed accommodation provides; hall, store, lounge, separate dining room, CONSERVATORY, kitchen, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Well stocked garden with parking to gable and FURTHER POTENTIAL PARKING from Dibdale Road. Many fine period features. EPC: SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £185,000



COSELEY, Whitegates Road

Tremendously upgraded, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached at head of cul-de-sac with open aspect comprising; hall, kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, cloakroom, living/dining room, double glazed CONSERVATORY. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with wardrobes & shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, 'low-maintenance' gardens. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £180,000



LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Beautifully presented and well maintained traditional semi-detached property located in the sought after area of LOWER GORNAL in Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this family home also boasts porch, hallway, living room, open-plan kitchen-diner, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, stunning enclosed rear garden, garage and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £179,950



KINGSWINFORD, Stream Park

A LARGE and SUBSTANTIAL TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME well placed within a very popular location, with a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN, LONG DRIVEWAY and SECTIONAL GARAGE, offering a LARGE layout including a huge 22ft Lounge with dining area and THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC: E

No upward chain £179,950



COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill

EXTENDED - APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS! Gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached 'cottage' of character that has been transformed, enlarged & improved enviably situated with panoramic distant views comprising; sitting room, lounge with multi fuel stove, tremendous extended breakfast kitchen (with lofty ceiling heights) double French doors out to the garden and a fine range of units, shower room. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Off road parking, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £170,000



WOODSETTON, Bramford Drive

Occupying a sweeping corner position in the popular Woodsetton area, this semi-detached property is an ideal family home. Benefiting from having NO UPWARD CHAIN this house also comprises entrance hallway, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, part double glazing, enclosed rear garden with good-sized front garden and driveway. VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL. ●●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●●● EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



WORDSLEY, New Street

Retaining much of its original character, yet also boasting ATTRACTIVE MODERN APPOINTMENTS, this OUTWARDLY DECEPTIVE TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOUSE offers a generous layout including a first floor Shower Room and benefits a long, attractive garden. EPC: D

£134,950



SEDGLEY, Beacon Lane

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed intermediate home. Accommodation provides reception hall, spacious lounge, transverse breakfast kitchen with a range of 'American walnut' effect units, store, outer porch, separate WC. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, good size garden. Distant views from front and rear. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £132,500



LOWER GORNAL, Lake Street

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL! - Highly individual 'quirky' double glazed gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) link-detached upon wide plot (with garage) and lengthy rear garden comprising; entrance vestibule, living room, lobby, cloakroom, pantry, kitchen. Two large bedrooms (possibilities of sub division?), bathroom. Delightful garden and 16ft width from side gable to boundary wall with gated access. EPC: E SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £134,000, NOW £124,950



COSELEY, Broad Street

STYLISH - Exceptionally well presented, modernised, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached within convenient district of shops, BUS/RAIL, transport routes & comprising; hall, separate dining room, lounge (with double French doors out to the garden), kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom with stylish white contemporary suite, recently resurfaced foregarden (kerb dropped), and sheltered rear garden, brick store. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

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DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

"PENTHOUSE STYLE" SECOND FLOOR PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE! Enhanced/enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with DISTANT VIEWS comprising: hall, cloak, 22'10" lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom. Second floor 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with centre piece 'jacuzzi'. Garage, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Gorge Road

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Tremendously EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached offering tremendous space (with further potential to reconfigure rooms etc.), and open aspect to front comprising: reception hall, lounge, pantry, dining room opening through to sitting room (with patio doors to garden), extended 16'10" kitchen, 20'5" two section principal bedroom one, two further bedrooms, extended bathroom, through store. Extensive parking to front, lengthy sheltered rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Turls Hill Road

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed interwar semi detached in favoured 'tree-lined' road within walking distance of both fields & Sedgley's Bull Ring, comprising: porch, hall, through living/dining room with conservatory beyond. Extended kitchen, large conservatory to side, w.c. Three bedrooms, bathroom. LARGE CORNER PLOT with side gated access to CONTRACTORS GARAGE (with pit), parking, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£249,995**

Offers in the region of **£230,000**

Offers in the region of **£180,000**



COSELEY, Fieldview Close

Superbly presented DETACHED property situated at head of sought after cul-de-sac in Daisy Bank. Benefiting from central heating & double glazing, this family home also boasts: porch, living room, dining room, conservatory, breakfast kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive family shower room, TWO INTEGRATED GARAGES, driveway offering parking for multiple cars & enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating TBA SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD, Eaton Crescent

Situated on a fantastic corner position in the extremely popular GORNAL WOOD area of Dudley this DETACHED bungalow offers so much. With entrance hallway and garage, this DETACHED BUNGALOW also benefits from L-shaped open lounge-diner, kitchen, bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS central heating, driveway and enveloped by low-maintenance gardens all around the property. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Northway

Imposing, spacious, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow upon generous corner plot within walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities comprising: porch, hall, kitchen, 18'3" living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with units), reappointed bathroom, conservatory, secluded rear garden, garage, driveway. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Porthkerry Grove, Brownswall esatate

●●BEST and FINAL OFFERS to be received for the Vendors consideration by 12 noon on Mon 11th September 2017●● ENVIABLY SITUATED SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising: hall, lounge with bay, dining room, store, enlarged kitchen, 23ft through lobby. Three bedrooms (scope to enlarge third bedroom into eaves?), shower room (former bathroom), enlarged garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.



WALL HEATH, Beachcroft Road

AN EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE well placed, offering a GENEROUS layout of accommodation which includes THREE GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS. The property is set back beyond the broad frontage which includes the LARGE DRIVEWAY, 27 FT GARAGE and a pleasant rear garden. EPC D

Offers in the region of **£209,950**

Offers in the region of **£195,000**

Offers in the region of **£195,000**

Offers in the region of **£190,000**

No upward chain

£189,950



LOWER GORNAL, Lawnswood Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Significantly enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached briefly comprising: porch, hall, L shape lounge/dining room, kitchen (with various integrated appliances), former garage utilized as a second reception room. Three bedrooms, (principal bedroom with quality "American walnut" finish units), bathroom. Block paved foregarden, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORD, Ragees Road

Enjoying SPECTACULAR VIEWS TOWARDS CLENT HILLS, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is superbly placed, offering FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. Set back beyond a FULL WIDTH BLOCK-PAVED, DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and enjoying a VERY PLEASANT & GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC C



DUDLEY, Haslingden Crescent

An extremely well presented modern intermediate property which is ideal for first time buyers or movers looking to downsize. Benefitting from entrance hall, guest W/C, fitted-kitchen, lounge-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, double glazing, gas central heating, attractive bathroom with enclosed rear garden and parking. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBA SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive

A superbly presented modern intermediate situated on the popular ATTINGHAM DRIVE development in Dudley. Ideal for first time buyers or families, this THREE BEDROOM benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts entrance hall, well-appointed living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, attractive bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking. Viewing essential! EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

OUTSTANDING SPECIFICATION! Only recently comprehensively refurbished to an exemplary standard throughout; a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, 'starter home' in favoured district briefly comprising: reception hall, refitted kitchen, 16'7" lounge (with patio doors), two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary white suite/chrome detailing. Lengthy garden, parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£165,000**

£159,950

Offers in the region of **£145,000**

New price WAS £149,950, NOW £144,950

Offers in the region of **£140,000**



KINGSWINFORD, Wrens Avenue

A TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME well placed within a popular address, offering a GENEROUS layout which requires UPDATING and IMPROVEMENT, providing much potential to enhance the WELL PLANNED LAYOUT which includes THREE BEDROOMS. EPC C



COSELEY, Ivyhouse Lane

A traditional semi detached property located in the popular Cosely area of Wolverhampton. This THREE BEDROOM starter home benefits from double glazing, entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, ground-floor bathroom, workshop and enclosed rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Primrose Park

An IMPRESSIVE TWO BEDROOM MEWS BUNGALOW, delightfully located within this sought after retirement and warden controlled development, all set within secure gated and beautifully maintained gardens/ grounds, including communal RESIDENT CAR PARKING. EPC D



KINGSWINFORD, Buckingham Grove

A LARGE TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT superbly placed, within the much sought after Valley Fields with PARKING for FOUR CAR plus SUBSTANTIAL SIDE STORE, all enhancing the GENEROUS layout, which is BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED throughout. EPC D



WOODSETTON, Roper Walk

AN APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS and much enhanced centrally heated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR double bedroom flat with OPEN ASPECT to front set in quiet backwater shared gardens and allocated parking. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, upgraded kitchen, 16'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, double bedroom, upgraded bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

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The car has the Kodo design language and features flowing lines, a gaping grille

Mazda6 is an impressive to drive saloon and estate

By James Parker

Mazda's Mondeo-rivalling family car has long been regarded as one of the best cars in its class, even if the sales figures have never quite lived up to the reviews. Now, though, the family four-door has been updated to become more refined and even better to drive. It's a tough ask for a car that's already a brilliant drive, but Mazda thinks it has managed it.

This has been achieved, the Japanese brand says, through an updated interior, some vibration damping in the engine and a new torque vectoring system called G-Vectoring Control, or GVC, for short. Torque vectoring is something normally reserved for four-wheel-drive cars, sending the power to each axle as required, but this system is designed to increase grip by subtly braking on turn-in and transferring weight onto the front wheels.

Even those who look closely would be hard pushed to spot the difference between the 2017 Mazda6 and its predecessor – mainly because there are almost no external changes. Both use the same Kodo design language and feature flowing lines, a gaping grille and both look stunning in Mazda's Soul Red Metallic paint. Inside, there are more noticeable upgrades, such



The 6 looks stunning in Soul Red Metallic paint

as the new centre console and the updated steering wheel, but otherwise it's a very familiar place to sit.

With unchanged dimensions both inside and out, the Mazda6 is every bit as practical as its predecessor. The saloon boasts 480 litres of boot space, while the estate manages to squeeze 522 litres into its load bay – much the same volume as can be found in a Ford Mondeo estate.

The cabin space is equally generous, with plenty of head and legroom for adults in all four of the main seats. The middle perch on the bench seat may be a little less comfortable for journeys of any distance, but it's good enough to carry children on short trips.

Mazda has made much of its refinement improvements with this iteration of the 6, but it's difficult to tell how much of a difference has been made without driving the two cars back-to-back.

It isn't noticeably quieter than its predecessor, and it feels as though reducing the panel gap tolerances was a lot of trouble to go to for no reward, but then the 6 was already at the point of diminishing marginal returns – where each one per cent improvement was going to get harder and harder to come by.

The introduction of GVC, however, has made a more tangible difference. You can feel the car decelerate slightly as you turn in, pushing weight onto the front wheels. The result is an increase in grip, but it does scrub a little cornering speed, so that may be half the effect.

Even so, the Mazda is still an impressive car to drive, with nicely weighted steering and body control that belies its bulk, and thanks to engineering witchcraft, it's also comfortable, ironing out our pockmarked roads without fuss.

The Mazda6's pricing hasn't changed with the introduction of the 2017 car, so prices still start from £19,995 for the basic saloon and rise to £29,295 for the top-of-the-range estate.

You do, however, get more for your money, with range-topping Sport Nav models getting an enhanced colour head-up display, a heated steering wheel and traffic sign recognition, while mid-range SE-L cars get power-folding mirrors as standard and an autonomous low-speed braking system.

The Mazda6 has undoubtedly benefitted from its maker's modifications, but it's a small margin of improvement. Nevertheless, the changes make it an even worthier contender in this marketplace, appealing to families that want to use their car for long-distance touring every bit as much as the Ford Mondeo and VW Passat.

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A highly competitive price doesn't mean the MG3 lacks high-spec features. Each model comes with a dazzling array of technology as standard; a refreshing change from competitors that offer an

endless list of additional expenses. The top-of-the-range MG3 Style+ includes cruise control, 16" diamond alloys, Bluetooth connectivity, reverse parking sensors and leather seats as standard. Not bad for a car that costs just £11,695.

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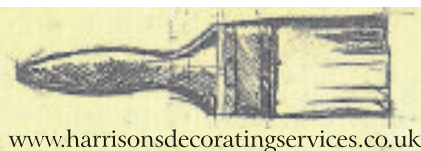
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Extended site, sleeps six, 34 ft long, 6.5 litre turbo diesel engine. Automatic gearbox. Fully serviced, MoT June 2018.
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holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

3 Home & Services

furniture

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G-PLAN WASHINGTON gold 3-piece suite, sofa, chair, accent chair, footstool, good clean condition, £250. 01384 832771.

L SHAPE CORNER GROUP SOFAS With Chaise lounge, beautiful antique chocolate leather / suede, all unused. Excellent quality and styling, cost over £2,000 accept £895. 07787 636884.

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items for sale

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specialists at your service

aerials

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6x4 sheds prices from £255 | 8x6 summerhouses from £495
1" flooring, 13mm t/g, no osb boards used All sizes available
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READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

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WANTED

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specialists at your service

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ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

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fencing

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Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

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Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call
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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
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WANTED Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

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commercial premises

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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situated in Penn Village.

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THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call
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Let Me Buy Your House
YOUR PRICE, flexible terms
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01384 686 050

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overseas property

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7 Jobs

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RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work.
Own van / tools.
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full time - general

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Local Information

public & legal notices

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Notice is hereby given that Sukhdev Benik of News 2U, Unit L50, Merryhill Shopping Centre, DY5 1QX has applied to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for a premises licence for the following licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol from 08.00am – 00.00 Midnight.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section between the hours of 08.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays) An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority of Interested Party must be made in writing between 01/09/2017 and 29/09/2017 to Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF.

It is an offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 52 Corbyn Road Dudley West Midlands, who died on 05/07/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 10/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Sparring partners go head-to-head in ring

MANNY ZABER and Jack Summers will renew acquaintances after the draw for Black Country Boxing's Super Series: The Super Featherweights was made.

Eight Midlands boxers will compete over three nights to be crowned the Midlands Area Super Featherweight Champion. Quarter-finals take place at Walsall Town Hall on Sunday, October 15, over six three-minute rounds.

Old Hill's Zaber and West Bromwich's Summers are both managed by BCB head of boxing, Errol Johnson, and have shared the ring countless times as sparring partners. Zaber boasts a superior record but Summers is a tough competitor who will be looking to cause an upset.

Chasetown's Luke Jones steps in with Leicester's Joe Ducker.

There's a Second City derby as Birmingham's Paul Holt meets fellow Brummie Waqas Mohammed, while former stablemates and fellow Tamworth residents Louis Fielding and Tamworth's Josh Baillie go head-to-head.

Players on oche for more Grand Slams

THERE will be, at least, another two Grand Slam of Darts at Wolverhampton Civic Hall after the PDC released their tournament calendar for 2018.

The competition will see its 10th anniversary at the Civic in the usual month of November and will also return next year.

Holder Michael Van Gerwen will be back for this year's Slam, from November 11-19. Six-time winner, 57-year-old Phil Taylor, will be featuring for the last time.

New sponsors have come on board to back the next two Grand Slams, Austrian-based betting company Bwin replacing Thai brewers Singha Beer.

Tipton's Jamie Hughes is on course to be the Black Country presence, due to his world ranking of No.3 with rival organisation the BDO. One player from the BDO will feature in each of the eight groups with those certain of their places being Glen Durrant and Danny Noppert, plus the Grand Slam debut of Peter Machin, 2017 World trophy winner.

The 2018 Grand Slam has been booked at the Civic for November 10-18.

£1m ex-Wolves star gives talk for hospice

BRITAIN'S first £1m player, former Wolves player Steve Daley, will be giving a talk this month to raise money for a hospice.

The Sportsman's Supper, with fish and chips, takes place on September 22 from 6.30pm, at Stafford Rangers Football Club, Marston Road, on the Astonfields Industrial Estate. It has been organised by Katharine House Hospice in Stafford.

Guests will be able to enjoy dinner while the former footballer talks about his life and career journey which started when he was 15 years old.

Daley joined Wolves as an apprentice and signed as a professional in 1971, making his debut as a substitute in a 4-2 win over Nottingham Forest in September that year. He played more than 200 times for Wolves before moving to Manchester City for a then British record transfer fee of £1.4m in 1979. Two years later he crossed the Atlantic to play in America.

Tickets for the night can be bought for £15 per person at <https://www.khhospice.org.uk/product/kick-katharine-evening-event>



Former footballers Tony Daley, Chris Marsh and Peter Bodak



Chris Marsh, Chris Nicholl, Wayne Thomas and Ray Graydon

Phoenix rise to occasion against old favourites

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

A HOST of football favourites rolled back the years in an exhibition match to raise money for grassroots football.

Stars including Don Goodman, Martin O'Connor, Tony Daley, Lee Naylor and James Chambers were all in attendance as a Midland Ace Legends side played out a 3-2 thriller with Walsall Phoenix Veterans.

The event was held to raise funds for Phoenix, who ply their trade in the Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division.

In glorious sunshine at Aldridge Cricket Club, more than 1,500 people packed in to watch the game and enjoy a host of other attractions including live music, food stalls, bouncy castles, inflatable games and a licensed bar. There was also a 20-team football tournament with junior sides from across the region.

Walsall heroes Ray Graydon and Chris Nicholl took charge of the Midlands Ace Legends' side.

Delighted

But the managerial greats couldn't add another win to their glittering CVs – with Phoenix running out victors.

Their boss, Tom Revitt, admitted he was delighted with how the day went. "It was absolutely great for our lads to play against some big names," he said.

"To share a pitch with someone like Don Goodman is great for people, like me, who have always enjoyed playing lower league football.

"We had a great turnout, more than 1,500. And what was nice is that football was only half the day. We had live bands, plenty of entertainment for children and a junior football tournament as well.

"It took a lot of work but it's crucial we hold events like this.

"As a club we have got 25 teams now and the cost to run them last year was £60,000. "We don't have the



The two teams line up ahead of the charity football match, Walsall Phoenix Veterans are in red and the Midlands Ace Legends in blue

opportunity to bring in big money through sponsorship – although some of the local businesses do help.

"This event will prove a huge benefit for us in terms of raising money to keep paying those running costs. We hope it will be the first of many."

The Midlands Ace Legends side had been put together by former Walsall midfielder Wayne Thomas. He is now hoping to hold more fundraising matches with other grassroots sides, as well as charities, across the region.

"We put together the Midlands Ace Legends because at charity days or fundraisers there is an appeal to have players who have played for different clubs across the region," Thomas said.

"Chris Marsh is a very good friend of mine and has a lot of contacts.

"We put this side together so when people ask about fundraising days we can cater for all football fans in the West Midlands.

"We had a lovely day, a great turnout and hopefully we'll be able to support other clubs and charities in

the future." Arguably the biggest draw on the day was former Saddlers boss Graydon, who twice won promotion during his time in charge at the Banks's Stadium.

The former Villa winger also netted the winning goal in the 1975 League Cup final.

And the 70-year-old, who now lives in Hampshire, admitted he thoroughly enjoyed being back in the Midlands.

"It was fantastic for me to be back around supporters of Walsall," he said. "I absolutely loved it. I wanted to come back because I think events like this are so important.

"It costs an awful lot of money to run a football club, just to keeping going, so I'm very happy to help." Spectator Maurice Walsh, from Bloxwich, said everyone enjoyed the day.

"I really enjoyed it and it was great to get autographs from the ex-pros," he said. "I think having a Midlands Ace Legends side is a very good way to raise money for grassroots football."



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DK runners successful in city marathon

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club members didn't have far to travel with a combination of races taking place in Wolverhampton as part of the city's marathon.

Darran Bishop was first home for the hoops in the half marathon, covering the 13.1 mile distance in 1.26.54 to take 18th place, Dave Norman was not too far behind finishing in 1.28.37 in 21st place and Mark Homer was breathing down his neck in 23rd in 1.29.24.

Helen Tromans claimed first place in the ladies race and was invited into the hospitality tent as a result, claiming 31st place overall in a time of 1.31.19.

Roger Beddard was 143rd in 1.46.00, Nick Ma was 263rd in 1.55.22, Hannah McGuire was 384th in 2.08.57 and Lisa Kendrick finished a place and one second behind. Nicola Wilkinson finished in 541st in 2.41.03.

Taking on the shorter 10k race at the same event Simon Hughes put his lack of training aside to come home in 40.44 to take 20th place and Kathryn Sneyd was 86th in 50.57.

Stretton

Elsewhere, Richard Bate took part in the Stretton Skyline, a 19-mile fell race over the Shropshire hills taking in some high-burning climbs up Ragleth, Caer Caradoc, Lawley and the Long Mynd.

Despite a couple of navigation errors which added the best part of a mile to the course, Bate finished in a respectable 3 hours 10 minutes.

Eighth defeat of season puts side in seventh spot

WITH two matches remaining Stourbridge conceded their eighth defeat of the season against Sentinel.

Stour are in seventh position in division three of the Birmingham and District league. Four teams face relegation to the recreational leagues.

Brewood and Worcester Nomads who hold the two bottom spots have each lost 13 matches and must be the favourites for the drop. Two more from pack of six including Stour are vulnerable to be in the drop zone depending on the outcomes of the two remaining games.

Put in to bat Stour went past the double hundred their top order doing a job Harshad Patel (44), Juihar Johal (78), Zain Ul Hassan (44) and a cameo of 45 off 21 balls from Matt Bradley. Andrew Harrison took four wickets in the final overs of the 50 overs match for 38 runs off 10 overs. He restricted Stour from the big shots that were needed to get them to a safety.

In the Sentinel knock Stour bowlers struggled on a batting wicket to take wickets and contain the run rate.

Stourbridge withstand Otley fightback

Otley 21 Stourbridge 42

THE starting line up included four making their debut for Stourbridge, captain Sam Pailor, Niall Gibbons, Steve Leach and George Morgan.

Stour also welcomed back Llyr Griffiths who last played for the club nine years ago and Jack Spencer. On the bench was Charlie Jeavons-Fellows, extending the J-F Dynasty by another generation.

The crowd saw the visitors get off to a flying start when, after just four minutes, full back Joe

Heatley was sent over to get the first points of the season. Chris Scott added the extras and it was game on!

A strong carry by Sam Pailor led to a penalty in front of the posts with the visitors opting for the three points taken by Scott. Otley kicked off the second half and it only took two minutes for another debut try, this time by Morgan after hHe ghosted through several tackles. Just four minutes later the ball was sent to Niall Gibbons for another debut try which was converted by Petty.

A superb forwards effort drove over the line on 52 minutes giving Stour a 32-point lead including a Petty conversion. However, the hosts fought back to 14-32 and were further rewarded when substitute Henry Watson cleverly gathered a pass almost behind him to score under the posts. Rowntree converted and Otley had a losing bonus point in their sights. However, an incisive running line by Dan Rundle gave Stour an overlap which was snapped up by Joe Heatley who ended the game as he started it.

Glassboys on the glory trail again

Stourbridge 2 Hednesford Town 0

A GOAL in either half saw off Hednesford Town at the War Memorial Ground on Monday night.

Matt Dodd, who left Hednesford last week, was back at Stourbridge and was in the starting XI against his previous employers.

He was outstanding throughout and behind a lot of Stourbridge's attacking play, providing a chance for Josh Green on 15 minutes with a great cross, but again it went wide.

Jordan Archer scored a cracking opener on 32 with a drive from 20 yards that shaved the post before it went in.

Ryan Rowe had the ball in the net just before the break but it was ruled out for offside. But Rowe did get on the scoresheet on 64 minutes when he got a touch to a Jack Duggan header which was going in.

Loughboro Dynamo 1 Stourbridge 3

Stourbridge will entertain Colney Heath in the FA Cup second qualifying round after defeating Loughborough on Saturday.

The Glassboys - who reached last season's third round proper, beating League One Northampton Town along the way - were on top throughout the game. The home side offered little in attack though Edison Antonio headed wide just before the break.

Stour have also signed winger Pierce Kiemi from Chasetown, along with midfielder Alex Solomon.

Yeltz in a second half cup nightmare

Halesowen Town 0 Basford United 3
OUT-CLASSED Halesowen were dumped out of the FA Cup by lower league Basford after conceding three goals in a disastrous eight minutes at the start of the second half.

There was little to choose between the teams in an even first period. Bradley Lewis cleared off the line from Basford's Kieran Wells and Halesowen's Luke Shearer blazed over the bar just before the interval.

But it all went wrong after the break for Halesowen as Basford romped victory with goals from James Reid, Liam Hearn and Ashley Grayson.

DK OFF TO A WINNING START

DK 45 Stourbridge Lions 12

DUDLEY Kingswinford secured a win in their opening game of the new season with a 45-12 victory over the newly-promoted Stourbridge Lions.

Just before the 10 minute marker a scrum-mage in the Stour 22, saw DK employ a back row move and an excellent line from Sam Pedley saw the flanker in by the posts. With the conversion missed it was 5-0 to DK.

The good work of the opening quarter was almost thrown away when some poor defending from DK saw Lions through but luckily for DK Ryan Smitheman, covered back from the blind-side wing to put a tackle in and Nic Adams who was able to put in a clearance kick.

DK continued to build the pressure towards half time full back Adams was enjoying a good game returning any Lions kicks.

Just before the break, Adams ran the ball back into the Stour half and linked with Stef Shillingford who kept the move going into the 22, the ball was then onto the forwards in a quick ruck.

Swiftly

Jordan Brookes set the backs going back to the left and the ball was passed swiftly to Smitheman, who was outside his man and in the clubhouse corner for a second try to take a 10-0 lead into half time.

The second half saw DK maintain their tempo playing in the Stourbridge half. Will Hancox broke the defensive line and was in the 22, Shillingford supporting was in under the posts, Jordan Brookes added the extras for 17-0.

Sam Pedley charged for the line, DK recycled quickly and the next forward waiting was Arran Hudson, who crashed over for the bonus point try, converted by Adams, for 24-0. Nick Mann reduced the lead to 24-5, with a well taken try.

Pete Griffiths touched down, Adams converted. Then Josh Rowley bagged a second try for the Lions and Joe Carpenter was off under the posts for a penalty try, 38-12. DK's final try was from Ben Brown with Adams adding the extra points.

Cricket T20 proves a smash hit



Himley Cricket Club president Joe Brandrick presents the trophy of Brewood skipper Jamie Lunn

HIMLEY Cricket Club continue to raise the bar with their Black Country Floodlit T20 competition.

Brewood took the spoils when they rounded off a superb week-long tournament with victory over Wolverhampton in the final.

Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, a Staffs Clubs XI and hosts Himley completed the line-up with all sides able to include a number of guest players from other clubs.

It was a case of third time lucky for Brewood after missing out in the previous two finals, the real winners were the local cricket fans.

They were treated to excitement during what by common consent was the best T20 tournament to date.

Bruce Thomason plundered a century for Brewood in the final while Whittington's big-hitting Australian Jayden Levitt also reached three figures for the Staffs Clubs XI and Halesowen respectively. Zimbabwe all-rounder Tendai Chisoro was voted player of the tournament for a series of eye-catching displays that fired Brewood to glory.

"It felt like it was the best competition we have staged so far," said captain Greg Wright.

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- One of the best showrooms in the Midlands, so customers have a massive selection to see before they buy
- We pride ourselves on a brilliant aftersales service, so customers get a worthwhile guarantee which is another reason most of our work comes from recommendations
- We will not be beaten on price as we always aim to do the best deal possible for our customers.
- If you like the sound of us then pop in or give us a call to arrange your free no obligation Quote
- See what our customers thought about us



**CALL US NOW FREE TO
SEE WHAT WE CAN DO
FOR YOU AND ARRANGE
YOUR FREE QUOTE.
SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW
COMPETITIVE WE ARE**



DW Windows Ltd

BUILT ON QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY AND RELIABILITY

WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORY CENTRE

8 MEADOW LANE (OFF SHAW ROAD), COSELEY, WEST MIDLANDS,
WV14 9NQ TEL: 01902 661779 | 7 BRICK STREET, SEDGLEY DY3 1NT
TEL 01902 662511 STOURBRIDGE 01384 900 185

12TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

West Midlands window company with emphasis on quality and customer care...

- West Midlands window company with emphasis on quality and customer care
- A decade of experience that you can rely on
- Established in 2006, over the last 11 years we have pleased many customers across the West Midlands – with high quality windows, doors and living spaces. It is no coincidence that customers return to us time and time again. Part of the reason that they do is thanks to our combination of free and friendly advice, fantastic products and an efficient service and installation.
- Our sales process is simple; we will offer a free quote and if you are the order will be placed. One of our friendly surveyors will measure up your property and we will arrange an installation time and date at your convenience. This smooth process ensures that you will be enjoying your new home improvements in next to no time at all.
- With half of our work being based on repeat business and recommendations, the success of our work is based on our ability to please customers. We have come a long way since 2006.
- DW Windows was started from scratch by Dave Walters. A further employee, Dave's brother then joined the team still working from home.
- Thanks to three years of success, we opened our first shop and welcomed 4 admin staff and a third fitting team.



ORANGERIES...



CONSERVATORIES...

DOORS...



WINDOWS...



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WINDOWS, DOORS
& CONSERVATORY
CENTRE

8 M
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DY

WITH OVER

12,000 INSTALLATIONS



70% of our business comes from returning customers and recommendations we must be doing something right
Here's what just a few of our customers has to say about us...

The fitters were very lovely, polite and never messed about, always cleaned up. Brilliant job done, really pleased and would recommend to anyone

Mrs. Turley, Wolverhampton

We had previously used DW Windows and the value is great. I am really pleased with the service received and the Sales Advisor was very helpful. The fitter was very pleasant and helpful.

Mr Morris, Wolverhampton

"They were all professional, all polite and very happy with everything. Will be using DW Windows again. Mrs Dain gave us an average customer rating of 9.8"

Mrs. Dain – Sedgley

Scott and John our window fitters were very polite from beginning to the end of the work being carried out. When asked about fittings the were knowledgeable in the products and explained in detail the fitting of the windows. We are very pleased with the quality and finish of the windows and would recommend your company to friends and family.

Mr & Mrs Jackson, May 2017

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank your company for the exceptional and professional way you processed and fitted our new doors and windows our complete satisfaction from the original survey to the finished product. Even after an awkward situation that was by no way your company's making was overcome with complete professionalism and ended with a much better outcome. –

Mr & Mrs Phillips, March 2017

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Mr & Mrs Phillips, March 2017

Thank you to all the guys who worked on our property, the house has been transformed and now looks stunning. We were very impressed from beginning to end, we would like to thank Nick the sales guy, the builders and the window fitters. They were all professional, respectful, helpful and very good at what they did we would not hesitate to recommend you. Many Thanks

Mr Williams, April 2017

"Very pleased with the fitters, turned up on time and were very clean and tidy. Polite and all the work was finished much quicker than we thought it would be. Would highly consider using you guys again and would recommend. 5 Stars."

– Mr Davies, Feb 2017

– Mr Davies, Feb 2017

"Straight forward, great staff. Will continue using DW windows & will recommend you to others. 5 Stars."

Mr Smethwick, Jan 2017

"John and Scott worked extremely well to put in the new windows. Cleared away all the rubbish and left the inside and outside tidy. Very sociable and very pleased with their work. 5 Stars."

Bernard & Lorna, Jan 2017

A testament to the dedication & hardwork of our staff...

MEADOW LANE (OFF SHAW ROAD), COSELEY, WEST MIDLANDS,

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VISIT OUR SHOWROOM **TODAY** FOR MORE DETAILS

Late Summer Offer
FREE colour upgrade of your
choice on all bi-fold doors

**CALL US NOW FREE TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR
YOU AND ARRANGE YOUR FREE QUOTE. SEE FOR
YOURSELF HOW COMPETITIVE WE ARE**

SEASONS BEST - DOUBLE GLAZING PRODUCT

Technical features

- Available from a small 3 leaf to a large 7 leaf system
- Choice of uPVC or aluminium frames
- Enduring performance and easy to use
- Contemporary frame colours including black, white and grey
- Customisable door furniture
- Highly secure and energy efficient

Energy efficiency

Thanks to modern technology, our bifold doors offer impressive thermal performance. They will help to keep your living spaces warm by trapping heat inside. This is great news for when the temperatures drop outside, as you can still enjoy outside views!

Combined with high performance double or triple glazing, your bifold doors will help to reduce energy bills and carbon footprints.

Secure bifold doors

Many people think bifold doors are less secure than a standard patio door because of the amount of glazing - but this isn't the case.

Our bifold doors are manufactured with security in mind, including internal hardware, multi-point locking and toughened glass as standard. You can be sure our bifolding doors are amongst the most robust out there, and will help keep your home safe.



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